

HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 20, 2014

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Chain reaction

Lotto success is celebrated at museum
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£100m bus deal just the ticket for region

NATIONAL Express West Midlands, the region's biggest bus operator, has today announced the signing of a £100m deal for 600 brand new state-of-the-art British built buses.

The agreement with Alexander Dennis will support 2,000 British jobs.

The announcement has been welcomed by Black Country MPs Ian Austin and Tom Watson who have called on other West Midlands companies to follow suit and buy British.

Technology

The 600 vehicles, a mix of double deck and smaller midi buses, will be built by Alexander Dennis Limited and will support more than 2,000 British jobs.

Every vehicle ordered will secure a British worker's job for a year.

The new vehicles will be equipped with the latest customer comfort technology, environmentally friendly low emissions engines and high definition CCTV.

Dudley North Ian Austin MP said: "This is an example of what a great British company should be doing."

"Supporting British manufacturing, securing jobs and signing deals that give British companies security is vital to our economic growth. I urge other companies to follow National Express West Midlands' lead."

Cyclist dies in accident

A CYCLIST has died after hitting a lamp post on a road near Stourbridge.

Police are appealing for witnesses to the crash on the A458 Bridgnorth Road in Enville, near to the junction of Blundies Lane at around 3.30pm on Saturday.

The cyclist was rushed to Russells Hall Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. He has been identified as Christopher Storer, aged 51, of Dix Avenue, Smalley, Derbyshire.

Court case — see page 13

DEATH OF CARE BATTLE COUPLE

Report by Mark Andrews

"WE HAVE never been apart, we have always been together. I sit here looking at his chair every day, I miss Jim and he misses me."

These were the words of 90-year-old Joyce Smith in November as she pleaded with social services chiefs to allow her to move into the same residential care home as her 96-year-old husband Jim.

Her wish came true in January but she was taken ill, suffering a massive stroke just four days after she moved into the home and before the couple had actually been reunited as Mr Smith was ill. Now Dunkirk and D-Day veteran Mr Smith has also died at the Island

Court care home in Dudley, just 20 days after the death of his wife.

Mrs Smith, who was admitted to Russells Hall Hospital following a fall just before Christmas was finally allowed to move into Island Court at the end of January. Within four days, she suffered a massive stroke and died on February 10.

Devoted

Mrs Smith's daughter Diane Fellows, 63, said: "I'm convinced it was down to all that stress. If they had listened to us in the first place, I honestly believe she would still be here."

The couple had both been widowed when they met at Diane's wedding on March 17, 1969, and were married a year to the day.

Mrs Fellows, of Gordon Avenue, Lanesfield, said: "They were a devoted couple, and it broke my mother's heart when they were apart."

The couple's heartache began in August when Mr Smith was admitted to Russells Hall after being taken ill with a kidney complaint. When he was discharged after four weeks, social services ruled he was not fit to return to the flat he shared with his wife in Brunel Court, Wombourne, and he moved into Island Court in Bourne Street, Woodsetton, on September 4. As Mrs Smith's health was not judged serious enough to warrant full-time nursing care, she was told she could not join him.

While staff at Island Court said they were prepared to allow Mrs Smith to move in with her husband, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust had said her condition did not justify the £391-a-week care cost.

Mr Smith's funeral at Gornal Wood Crematorium on Monday was on what would have been their 44th wedding anniversary.



Joyce Smith with a picture of her beloved husband Jim after he had been taken into the home

Jobs boost as Aldi will recruit at open day

A DISCOUNT supermarket chain is to recruit more than 70 people as it continues to expand to meet a growing demand in sales.

Aldi already announced it was creating 35 jobs ahead of the opening of its latest store in Wolverhampton and this week the firm said it was to employ 40 more people for eight of its existing stores across the Black Country.

Community

The German company, which has emerged nationally as a competitor to major supermarkets like Sainsbury's and Tesco, is holding a recruitment open day in Brierley Hill tomorrow (Friday).

Aldi area manager Leon Donald said: "Aldi is looking for further members of staff in the West Midlands due to an increase in sales for all stores across the region, and Aldi hopes to recruit primarily from the local community."

A spokesman added: "The positions will be for a number of stores across the West Midlands, including Brierley Hill, Dudley, Stourbridge, Netherton, Halesowen, Wollaston, Kidderminster and Bridgnorth, with 40 jobs available in total."

The recruitment event will be at the Copthorne Hotel in Merry Hill from 1pm to 5pm.

No to more theatre talks

BOSSSES at Dudley Council say time is up for campaigners to debate their plan to save Dudley Hippodrome.

The Friends of Dudley Hippodrome have asked for fresh talks with the council on their business plan for the future of the theatre.

But regeneration chief Councillor Judy Foster has refused to re-enter talks.

An independent report gives a bleak outlook on the viability of the venue if saved from demolition.

Expert view — see page 6



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Tyre deal clears obstacle for new store

A BUDGET supermarket's plans for a new store in Kingswinford look set to progress now a deal has been done with tyre business on the site of the proposed supermarket.

Lidl had already secured permission to open a branch on the Duckworth Trading Estate, off Stallings Lane, in Kingswinford. But now it is asking to increase the size of the store by almost 20 per cent. Bosses

said that, if the move gets the go ahead, it would create around 40 new jobs.

In submitted plans the firm said: "We anticipate it will bring several million pounds worth of investment into the area, providing a new, attractive and modern development consisting of a Lidl food store, offering local employment."

Single-storey warehouses and

workshops at the trading estate will be demolished to make way for the new store.

The estate was occupied by a furniture store, a windows manufacturer and martial arts academy but they were relocated when planning permission for the supermarket was first granted last year.

Only Kingswinford Tyres Ltd remained on the estate but the firm's

boss Andrew Page said it was also relocating to Dawley Brook Road late next month following a financial settlement.

The move will result in a £100,000 investment for the garage, see its base expand by 30 per cent and workforce go from 10 to 14. Mr Page said: "I have decided to take the positives from the negatives and look forward to our move."

Protesters step up waste site campaign

HUNDREDS of people are backing a campaign to stop Brierley Hill becoming 'the waste capital of the West Midlands' by opposing a controversial waste plant.

A total of 961 residents had written against Clean Power Properties' bid to build the plant off Moor Lane in Brierley Hill ahead of this week's deadline for submissions for a public inquiry to decide on it.

Legal dispute over mosque to continue

A LEGAL dispute over a proposed mosque in Dudley is set to continue as Muslim leaders attempt to launch another appeal.

A recent ruling by the High Court found in favour of Dudley Council and it was expected a date would finally be set for the site in Hall Street, to be handed back to the authority.

But council leader Councillor David Sparks says formal notification has been received that Dudley Muslim Association has submitted a request to appeal the court's ruling.

He admitted there was no way of knowing when the legal tussle, ongoing since 2007, would now finish.

Councillor Sparks said the authority was waiting to hear the outcome of the request from the Court of Appeal.

Officials had hoped the battle was nearing an end after Deputy Judge David Halpern QC upheld an earlier court ruling striking out the association's defence to the council's action to reclaim the land.

Councillor Sparks said that the 'complex situation' has now become even more complicated, likening it to a 'legal labyrinth'.

They say they will continue to fight against the scheme right up to the hearing date with a variety of events being organised to drum up support and keep residents informed.

The campaigners - who go under the name Brierley Hill SNOW (Say No to Waste site) - hired a stall at the town's market to publicise their battle and gather more support.

Objection

Campaigner Tim Lees, aged 63, of Seagers Lane, said: "We've been extremely busy compiling residents' letters of objection ahead of the deadline to submit our evidence against the scheme. We have real concerns about the smell from the site, then the traffic it will create."

"We already have one rubbish pile, if we got this would it make us the waste capital of the West Midlands?"

Clean Power Properties first unveiled its plan for the plant two years ago. In October it was turned down by councillors because of the impact on residents. But the company claimed the plant would not give out odours and a traffic management system would be in place.

The facility would process 195,000 tons of waste, including food, each year, generating enough electricity for up to 10,000 homes and creating 30 jobs.

The public inquiry at Dudley Council House starts on June 17.

Chain reaction to lotto success



Dudley's Black Country Living Museum chainmaker Kevin Lowe with the iron 100 SPARKS have been flying at the Black Country Living Museum to celebrate the Midlands who have won money in the Lotto Raffle.

There are 100 people from the Black Country who have each scored £20,000 win in the Lotto Raffle, which was only launched six months ago. They have also helped good causes and attractions such as the museum who benefit from lottery funding.

The Black Country Living Museum has received more than £5 million Heritage

Lottery Funding to date and wanted to do something to say thank you for the help the lottery had given the venue.

Kevin Lowe, a chainmaker at the museum in Tipton Road crafted the number 100 out of iron using traditional blacksmithing techniques. He said: "It's took me all day to produce the final piece and it took a lot of time to get it just right."

Staff at the museum also accepted a plaque to record the Lotto success. Laura Wakelin, spokesperson for the mu-

Mother's thanks to car crash rescuers

A MOTHER who was cut free from her car following a crash in Brierley Hill has thanked those who helped rescue her.

A Renault and Audi collided in Swan Lane at about 5.30pm on Saturday.

Kate Cooke, 34, of Stourbridge, was taken to Russells Hall Hospital after her Renault was involved in a collision with an Audi car in Swan Lane at around 5.30pm on Saturday.

Three young men in the Audi suffered minor facial injuries and were treated at the scene by paramedics.

Mrs Cooke, of Old Barn Road, had been on her way to the shops when the collision happened.

Firefighters removed the roof of her car with cutting equipment before strapping her to a spinal board.

Mother-of-one Mrs Cooke said: "My car spun. It was incredibly frightening."

"I would like to thank firefighters and there was a nice paramedic who sat with me and made me feel safe. There was also a nice lady who lived nearby and came out. She held my head very still."

"I feel very lucky. I'm badly bruised and on crutches but nothing is broken."

Group meet at hospital

WEST Midlands Lupus Group host a drop-in clinic at Russells Hall Hospital today (Thursday)

Guest Speakers are Dr Rav Sandhu, who is consultant rheumatologist and Lupus UK director Chris Maker in the ward A1 day-room in the rheumatology department between 2pm and 4pm.

Information will be available and representatives of West Midlands Lupus Group will attend. For further information call Yvonne Norton on 01902 498236 or visit the www.westmidlandslupus.co.uk website.

Village homes

PLANS to build two homes in a South Staffordshire village have been lodged.

The semi detached properties have been earmarked for land in The Acre, Kinver.

A planning application has been submitted to South Staffordshire Council.

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Sadness at death of zoo's rare lion

A LION which was part of a conservation breeding project at Dudley Zoo has died.

Staff at the zoo on Monday said they were devastated by the death of Asiatic lion Mwamba, aged 11.

Mwamba died despite veterinary treatment on Friday.

Gujarat

He was part of a rare and endangered lion subspecies known as *Panthera leo persicus*, native to India's Gujarat State.

He was brought to Dudley Zoo from Paignton last summer to breed with the zoo's female pair Asha and Kyra as part of a European conservation programme.

Zoo spokesman Jill Hitchman said: "He was a very popular lion, you can see that by the tributes we have already had in."

"We just wait now to find out the results of the post-mortem."

Mwamba was transferred to the zoo as part of the first lion breeding programme since the attraction's previous pair of lions died five years ago.

Mwamba's death is a major blow for a breeding programme considered of major importance.

70s film and TV nostalgia

TV and movie stars from the 1970s, including Bond girls Madeline Smith and Valerie Leon, will be signing autographs this weekend at the Memorabilia Show at Birmingham NEC.

Former children's TV presenters, actors from Doctor Who and current hit Game Of Thrones will also feature at the two-day celebration of cult TV and nostalgia.

There will be stalls selling memorabilia associated with film, TV and science fiction, plus appearances by beauties from the glamour model world. See www.memorabilia.co.uk/birmingham for the latest information.

Trio in concert

A TRIO of singers The Three Tones are in concert at St Margaret's Church hall, in Hagley Road, Hasbury, on April 11 at 8pm.

Tickets are £10 which includes a drink, available from Hicks Hadley estate agents in Halesowen, or by calling 0121 550 3899.

Paedophile jailed for crimes in the 1990s



Abuser Trevor Chapman

A PAEDOPHILE who had accused his victims of concocting abuse claims to get their hands on his partner's inheritance has been jailed for 18 years.

Trevor Chapman has been put behind bars after a three week trial at Wolverhampton Crown Court.

The unemployed 52-year-old was arrested in January last year by detectives investigating a report of abuse in the 1990s.

One of the victims, now aged in his 30s, had told police he had been

repeatedly sexually assaulted by Chapman, who he had met when aged around 13.

The abuse took place at Chapman's flat in Halesowen and inquiries revealed other boys would go to drink and smoke at premises across Birmingham linked to Chapman.

Investigating officer Detective Constable Jen Rose said: "This was a challenging and complex case. The crimes happened two decades ago so we had to use all of our skills and the force's resources to find the men

who used to visit Chapman's homes when they were boys. Considerable time and effort had to go into getting the men to open up to us and reveal their secrets."

De Rose identified four victims but when the allegations were put to Chapman he claimed it was a conspiracy with the men wanting a share of his partner's recent inheritance.

During the trial the jury heard how Chapman would ply the boys, aged between 10 and 16 at the time,

with alcohol and cigarettes and even cash in exchange for sex.

Chapman, of Brook Crescent, Stourbridge, was found guilty of 28 offences and placed on the Sex Offenders' Register for life.

De Rose added: "This has been a heavy burden for the boys Chapman groomed and abused. Their tormentor's crimes have had a significant impact on their lives with some being left unable to form meaningful relationships because of the abuse they suffered."

Residents will have say on town centre's future

MULTI-MILLION pound proposals to transform Dudley into a tourism and shopping destination are now open to public comment.

Developers will be encouraged to build attractions including restaurants and major high street stores to revive Dudley town centre.

Council bosses on Monday kicked off a new consultation asking residents for views on what they would like to see arrive in the town.

Ideas to boost Dudley and again make it a thriving centre at the heart of the Black Country include creating more homes so more people live in the town centre. These will go into a planning document for the longer term strategy on the future of the town until 2026.

Addict is given jail sentence

POLICE found almost £1,000 worth of cocaine hidden in a yellow plastic egg, a judge heard.

A jury at Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that 22-year-old Adnan Ajram, of Careless Green, Lye, 'panicked' shortly before 1am on December 8, 2012, when a patrol car pulled up behind him in Martley Drive, Lye, and two officers got out.

Mr Tariq Shakoor, prosecuting, said "He was alone in the vehicle and was seen to throw something under his seat." Ajram had tried to hide the egg that had 23 wraps of cocaine valued at £920. Police found £645 cash and a bag of cannabis. A raid on his home found drug paraphernalia.

Ajram said he was an addict and the drugs had been left by his dealer. He denied possession with intent to supply but was convicted after a trial.

Miss Caroline Haughey, defending, said: "He has had time to reflect on his gross stupidity. He no longer uses or sells drugs."

Judge Martin Walsh jailed Ajram for three years.

Revamp

The plans are supposed to link with the council's vision to transform the Castle Hill area, which is under going a £10 million revamp.

Major construction projects have begun to improve links between Dudley Zoo, the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley canal tunnels.

Regeneration boss Councillor Judy Foster said: "It's clear to see that Dudley town centre has already started its regeneration journey but what we want to do now is identify, with the help of the public, where Dudley should be in the future."

The consultation will run for six weeks.

The council has identified the need for a new super-market to boost footfall and has agreed to pay £2.5m for a 250-space multi-storey car park in Tower Street.

To take part go online to www.dudley.gov.uk or copies are be available at Dudley Council Plus in Castle Street, Dudley Library and Dudley Museum.

Knockout proposal is real ring craft



Boxing clever for ring romantics in Brierley Hill — from left, couples Ricky and Nikki, and Adrian and Debbie

TWO boxers served up knockout marriage proposals when they got down on bended knee in the ring and popped the question to their girlfriends.

Adrian Firkins, 44, and 24-year-old Ricky Welsby took each other on in the lightweight match at Merry Hill's Copthorne hotel before proposing to their respective girlfriends in front of hundreds of fight fans.

After three rounds and their fight declared a draw, the announcer called Debbie Tyler, Adrian's girlfriend, and

Ricky's partner Nikki Vyse to the ring for 'photographs'. The boxers got down on one knee and presented the engagement rings, donated by Laurick Jewellery. Both ladies said yes.

Adrian, from Long Lane, Halesowen, who was fighting in his first bout, said: "I was more nervous about the proposal than the fight. After the match my heart was in my mouth, I was scared."

"I was worried she might say no but we have two beautiful children

together so I didn't think she would."

Debbie, 42, has been with him for 16 years, and said she had been beginning to think the moment might never happen. She added: "I was completely gobsmacked."

Ricky, of Codsall Road, Cradley Heath, said: "The proposal was all I could think about all day, not the fight." The pair have been together for two years, and Nikki, 23, said: "I had never even thought anything like that would happen."

NEWS in brief

Kylie tickets go on sale this week
AUSSIE pop superstar Kylie Minogue is bringing her Kiss Me Once Tour to Birmingham this autumn.

Tickets go on sale tomorrow (Friday) for the concert at the NIA on October 7, her only West Midlands date.

Kylie, whose new album Kiss Me Once was released this week, is currently starring as one of the celebrity judges on BBC TV talent show The Voice. Tickets will be available from www.livenation.co.uk/artists/kylie-tickets from 9am.

Spring into action on nature walk
VISITORS will have a spring in their step at a walk taking in two nature reserves in Halesowen.

Nature warden Helen Edwards will lead a group on a free-to-join walk of two miles around The Leasowes and Coombswood Nature Reserve, finding out about history, geology and wildlife at the sites.

The walk starts at 9.45am on Saturday from the wardens' base at The Leasowes, off Mucklow Hill. Booking is essential, call (01384) 514642.

Catholics digging deep for charity
GENEROUS church-goers have dug deep into their pockets to help raise money for starving people.

Members of Catholic churches in Dudley donated cash for aid agency Cafod's Dig Deep campaign over the weekend. Last year they raised £4,097.

Cafod manager for Dudley, Helen Moseley, said "Through Dig Deep people from Dudley are making a difference."

Movie stars join Peaky Blinders

FILM stars Noah Taylor and Charlotte Riley are joining the cast of Peaky Blinders, the hit 1920s gangland TV drama set in Birmingham and filmed at the Black Country Living Museum. Taylor, from Game Of Thrones, will play a rival gang boss and Riley, soon to be seen with Tom Cruise in Edge Of Tomorrow, plays an aristocrat.

Tudor crimes

HISTORIAN Margaret Bradley will give a free illustrated talk on cases that appeared before the manor court at Cradley 450 years ago, on Thursday, March 27, at Overend Methodist Mission from 7.30pm.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



AFTER this week's suggestion of a super-city to be called Greater Birmingham, there was outrage further west and even a demand for it to be called Greater Black Country. The only fair way forward is to find the exact centre of the proposed city and take that as the name. After much measuring on the map I have it. Greater Pleck. □□□□□□□□

SHERYL Sandberg, the Facebook chief executive and Anna Maria Chavez, the head of American Girl Scouts, are heading a campaign to ban the word "bossy" on the grounds that being called bossy undermines the confidence of girls. What a pair of bossybotts. □□□□□□□□

IN LIFE, unspeakable. In death, unimpeachable. What a shame some of the nice things being said about Bob Crow since his sudden death were not said before. Two things made me like him. Firstly, I always admire people who speak up for others. Secondly, I never use the Tube. □□□□□□□□

ED Miliband says a Labour government would not hold a referendum on membership of the EU unless Britain is asked to transfer more powers to Brussels. Imagine the fun the lawyers could have defining "powers," "asked," "transfer" and "to Brussels." What Miliband really means is that the British people will never be allowed to pull out. Which, to be fair, is much the same as David Cameron means. The net result of Cameron and Miliband's EU dithering will be a landslide for UKIP in the EU elections in May. It's that opportunity we humble voters get every five years to thumb our noses at the big political parties with that wonderful line from Romeo and Juliet: a plague on both your houses. □□□□□□□□

AT a trade fair in Hanover, David Cameron looks forward to a new industrial revolution when billions of everyday objects such as fridges will be able to "talk to each other" over the internet. That's right, Prime Minister. And at night the toys all come to life and dance around the nursery. Perhaps you've been working a bit too hard.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Plans sent in for £2m charity pet hospital

PLANS for a new £2 million animal hospital in Oldbury have been lodged by pet charity PDSA. It follows an increase in demand for their services at its current base in Quinton.

The new site on the Wolverhampton Road will be known as the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals Centre for North-West Birmingham and Sandwell and will feature the latest veterinary equipment.

When people arrive they will walk into a spacious two-storey waiting area, designed to be cool and well ventilated.

The rest of the site will be single storey to reduce the impact of the building on the surrounding area and will include two operating theatres, a dental theatre, six consulting rooms and staff accommodation.

The new centre will deal with around 20 consultations during the day and a further 20 during the evening and overnight.

Plans to build a new animal hospital in the borough were first discussed with Sandwell Council in 2011 after the charity experienced a rise in demand for its services.

A letter sent to Sandwell Council's planning department on behalf of the charity said: "The building will provide a vital service to the poorer communities in West

by Tom Mason

Birmingham. The evidence from the existing centre, which is very congested, is conclusive proof of demand for this service.

"The site has been chosen because it is located within the community it seeks to serve and is on a main public transport corridor, thus making the site accessible by both private and public transport."

The letter goes on to say that around 30 full and part-time staff from the old centre will be kept on, safeguarding jobs locally and there will be potential for the creation of more jobs in the future.

The building has been designed to be flexible and will be built around an internal steel frame, to allow for future expansion of the facility or to accommodate changes in veterinary procedure.

The land, opposite Oldbury Academy, was originally owned by the council and was sold to the charity.

I miss Banks's, says Jeff



Rock legend Jeff Lynne, left, with Jasper Carrott

ROCK legend Jeff Lynne revealed he has not ruled out a return to touring as he became the latest Birmingham celebrity to be honoured on the city's Walk of Stars.

Aas the star accepted his home city's accolade, the frontman and co-founder of ELO told what he missed most from home: Banks's Bitter.

He spoke alongside long-time friend Jasper Carrott, from whom he received his star while standing on the roof of Birmingham's multi-million pound new library.

Now living in California, Lynne has spent little time in England over the past 23 years. He said: "I miss proper beer. I used to like Banks's a lot but I haven't had any of that for a long time."

His place on the Walk of Stars means the composer, music producer and Brummie rock hero follows in the footsteps of fellow musicians Ozzy Osbourne, Tony Iommi, Noddy Holder and his former band mate in The Move, Roy Wood, in a star etched with his name on Broad Street.

One year in prison for thefts of purses

A 'PROFESSIONAL' pick pocket' has got a year in jail for stealing three purses.

Lydia Turner, of John Street, Rowley Regis, stole the purses from handbags between February and July at the George Wallace pub in Victoria Street and the Lady Wulfrun in Lichfield Street in Wolverhampton.

Recorder Nicholas Syfret sentenced her to four months in prison for each offence, to be served consecutively.

CCTV

Mr Simon Phillips, prosecuting, said Turner, aged 35, had stolen a purse from a bag on February 12 last year. He said: "She returned almost a month later on March 8, where she stole a purse from a handbag."

On July 3, she was caught on CCTV sitting near the victim in Lady Wulfrun where she used her to feet to grab the handbag."

Mr Phillips told Wolverhampton Crown Court that she was arrested on July 31 after photos were published in the Express & Star. The mother-of-one had a long history of dishonesty.

Mrs Geraldine Toal, for Turner, said she stole to fund her drug habit, adding: "She realises now the effect that her crimes have on victims."

Turner was banned from the two pubs for two years.

Hassle Free Days Out

Date	Excursion	Adult	Senior	Child	Route Code
MAY					
Sun 4th	Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) House, Gardens & Egyptian Exhibition	£40	£40	£40	C
Mon 5th	Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza Bank Holiday Special	£17	£16	£15	A
Sat 10th	Barmouth... for the day	£17	£16	£15	B
Sat 10th	The National Archives - Kew, London To book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	£21	
Tue 13th	Abergavenny Market & Tewkesbury 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£14	£13	n/a	D
Fri 16th	Powis Castle & Gardens *Nifty National Trust Coach Club	£28	£25	n/a	B
	NT Member £14				
Sat 17th	York - Nifty City Explorer Tour *Includes Hop On Hop off Open-Top Bus Ticket*	£25	£25	£20	A
Sat 17th	York as you please... *Shopping & Sightseeing* ALL SEATS ONLY £15.00	£15	£15	£15	A
Tue 20th	Cotswolds *Moreton Market & Bourton* *2 SEATS FOR £22 *(Every Third Tuesday of the Month)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 25th	West Midlands Safari Park All inclusive Ticket (inc. unlimited ride wristband):	£18	£17	£16	
	Weston-Super-Mare on Bank Holiday *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£27	-	£26	E
Mon 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£15	£14	£13	B
Thu 29th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the Month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Sat 31st	Warner Bros Studio, London Harry Potter Studio Tour	£50	£50	£40	C
JUNE					
Tue 3rd	Bourton-on-the-Water & Evesham Country Park 2 For Tuesday (2 SEATS FOR £22)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Sun 8th	RAF Cosford Air Show 2014	£26	£25	£24	C
Wed 11th	Tyntonfield House, Chapel & Gardens (Bristol) *Nifty National Trust Coach Club*	£25	£25	n/a	B
	NT Member £14				
Sat 14th	London as you please ... Also taking place ... Trooping of the Colour	£20	£18	£16	A
Sun 15th	Weston-Super-Mare on Father's Day *2 SEATS FOR £25*	£15	£14	£13	B
Sun 15th	Three Counties Show - Malvern *Father's Day* (Entertainment and Fun)	£25	£24	£23	E
Tue 17th	Cotswolds *Moreton Market & Bourton* 2 SEATS FOR £22 (Every third Tuesday of the month)	£13	£12	n/a	D
Thu 19th	Swallow Falls Tour (Llangollen, Betws-y-Coed, Swallow Falls)	£18	£17	£15	B
Sat 21st	Chester - Nifty City Explorer Tour *Includes Hop-on Hop-off open-top bus ticket*	£25	£23	£18	B
Sat 21st	Chester as you please ... *Shopping & Sightseeing* ALL SEATS ONLY £15	£15	£15	£15	B
Sun 22nd	Blenheim Palace *Flower Show* Entrance to palace, gardens and flower show included	£28	£26	£20	D
Thu 26th	Nifty 50's Mystery Lunch Excursion (Last Thursday of the month)	£22	£22	n/a	TBC
Thu 26th	London Theatre *Matinee Show* Warhorse OR Miss Saigon	WARHORSE £65		MISS SAIGON £70B	
Thu 26th	London *Shopping & Sightseeing*	£15	£15	£15	B
Sat 28th	Abbey, Cathedral & Cheese Glastonbury Abbey, Wells & Cheddar	£22	£20	£18	A
Sat 28th	York Cat to book this trip Contact Phil Lamb on 0121 422 9131	£21	£21	£21	-
Sun 29th	Llandudno *Sea, Sand & Shops*	£16	£15	£14	A

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Black Angus Feather and Blades	£2.89 lb
5 lb Fresh English Middle Loin Lamb Chops	£3.79 lb = £8.35 per kilo
5 lb Fresh Boneless English Lamb Rump Steaks	£4.59 lb = £10.12 per kilo
5 lb English Lamb Neck Fillets	£3.75 lb = £8.27 per kilo
Whole Boneless Pork Legs	£1.78 lb = £3.92 per kilo
5 lb Boneless Pork Loin Steaks	£2.28 lb = £5.03 per kilo
Whole Pork Bellies	£1.89 lb = £4.17 per kilo
Whole Horseshoe Gammons	£1.99 lb = £4.39 per kilo
5 lb Packs Short Back Bacon Mild Cured	£7.99 per pack
5 lb Packs Smoked Short Back Bacon	£8.99 per pack
5 lb Fresh Shin Beef	£2.68 lb = £5.91 per kilo
5 lb Extra Lean Diced Beef	£3.28 lb = £7.23 per kilo
5 lb Black Angus Minced Beef	£2.99 lb = £6.60 per kilo
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Dealer is put behind bars after car chase

A DRUG dealer who tore through residential streets on a Saturday lunchtime driving at 60 mph has been jailed. Joshua O'Neil fled police while driving his Honda Civic towards Halesowen on October 5.

Wolverhampton Crown Court was told that when officers saw O'Neil didn't have a seat belt on, he sped off and led them on a pursuit of up to 10 miles. O'Neil even drove onto the pavement to avoid a police sifter.

Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting, played footage showing O'Neil driving on the wrong side of the road. Mr Searle said: "Much of the driving took place in 30 mph residential areas. He went through temporary traffic lights and caused a car to mount the pavement to avoid crashing into him. He reached speeds of 60mph."

He was caught when he drove into a cul-de-sac, crashing into a police car and the garden of a house.

Mr Searle added: "He was found with £280 worth of cannabis."

Mr Simon Hanns, defending, said: "That piece of driving is nothing to be proud of." O'Neil admitted dangerous driving, driving without a licence, without insurance and admitted possession of a Class B substance with intent to supply.

Recorder Greg Pryce sentenced O'Neil to 12 months in a youth offenders' institute and gave him a three year driving ban.

More babies mean extra pressure put on schools

MORE than 1,600 additional school places will be needed in Sandwell by next year as the borough experiences a massive baby boom.

An unprecedented rise in birth rates is putting pressure on the borough's schools.

The full extent was revealed in a report to Sandwell Council which recommends the expansion of four primary schools under a £5.2 million programme to create extra reception places.

Two years ago the council identified the population was growing at a rate which would mean at least 1,000 new places would be needed every year if the boom continued at the same pace, but it has now quickened.

A new report reveals that of the borough 23 wards, 22 will need extra places by April next year to keep up with the current population surge that will see around 5,000 children apply for school places by September 2014.

The wards identified as most in need of spaces were Abbey, Bristnall, Princes End, Tipton Green and Old Warley.

The baby boom is being seen across the country.

The rise is being driven by more women in their 20s and 30s becoming mothers due to advances in healthcare, and more migrant families coming to the UK than the numbers leaving.

The authority's Labour leaders have previously criticised the withdrawal of funding to build any new school facilities after the cancellation of the borough's £138 million Building Schools for the Future programme.

by Tom Mason

At a meeting next week, children services chief Councillor Simon Hackett, will be asked to approve the expansions of four primary schools, Perryfields, Oldbury, Reddall Hill, Cradley Heath, Ferndale, Great Barr, and Holy Trinity, West Bromwich.

All four will be enlarged to accept more children this year but the move will only create an additional 105 places for reception children by September, still leaving a significant shortfall by next year.

It will help deal with a population increase of 8.9 per cent since between 2001 and 2011, the period covered by latest national census.

But the report warned that the only ward likely to continue to meet demand was Newton.

V for Victory on No Smoking Day



Lisa Hall, Sophie Blount, Kevan McDermott, Neil Tonks, Carol Tromans, and Sarah Willett

HEALTH workers looked to the past to help give residents a future free from smoking at a roadshow urging people to kick the habit.

Members of Dudley Council's public health team dressed in 1940s clothing for the event held in Somers Square, Halesowen.

It was staged to tie in with No Smoking Day, which had a V for Victory theme.

Health workers dressed as Land Girls and RAF officers as popular songs from the era were played during the event.

Officials said it had been a success with around 40 people stopping to get advice on how to give up smoking.

The team will contact residents they have given advice to to see what actions they have taken to break the habit.

Stop Smoking co-ordinator for the team Joe Parkes said: "The day's slogan was V for Victory, like the one used during the Second World War, so we decided to give the roadshow a 40s-theme."

"It certainly caught the attention of people in the town and a lot of people came up to us during the event."

NEWS in brief

New bandstand plans for parks

NEW bandstands will be installed in two Sandwell parks under council proposals.

The scheme will see the installations at Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich and Victoria Park in Tipton.

Sandwell Council has begun the search for a supplier to recreate the Victorian bandstand that once stood in Dartmouth Park and may use a similar design in Victoria Park.

The exact cost of the scheme is not yet known but the search has been kicked off by the authority via the local networking website Find It In Sandwell.

The move could tie in with the ongoing multi-million pound transformation of Dartmouth Park.

Machine is on the cutting edge

THOMPSON, the Halesowen-based factory equipment manufacturer, is to supply a linear friction welding machine to a top organisation for developing production processes.

The machine will be used at Coventry's Manufacturing Technology Centre to look into ways of joining multi-metal components for the aerospace, medical and power generation industries.

The machine is designed to weld parts in a variety of materials. Thompson will be taking part in the Japan International Welding Show next month.

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IN MY VIEW

WITH MARK ANDREWS

THEY say one of the surest signs of getting older is when the policemen start looking younger. But what about when the police start looking smaller. Or made out of vinyl?

Over the last few months they seem to have been spreading like wildfire. PCSOs, community beat bobbies, it seems no shop is complete now without a self-adhesive law enforcer in the window.

We've all heard the unkind comments about 'plastic policemen', but really is taking it too far.

THE other week, while using a self-scanning till at a local branch of Tesco, a member of staff was required to verify that I was over the age of 18 while purchasing a six-pack of beer.

And what, you might ask, is wrong with that? Well the beer in question was alcohol-free. Why, even the old Top Deck shandy cans used to have a trace of alcohol in them, and I don't recall children being stopped from buying them. Even stranger is the warning on Beck's Blue, another low alcohol brew. "Please drink responsibly" it says on the label, which gives the alcohol content as being 0.05 per cent. And quite right too. Do not even consider getting driving a car after 200 bottles.

NOEL Edmonds, unveiling his proposal to privatise the BBC, says he no longer buys a television licence because there is nothing on the normal terrestrial services he wants to watch. "I don't watch except on catch-up," he says. And quite right too. So how does he feel about all those years he was forcing Mr Blobby and Telly Addicts on us?

FIREFIGHTERS were this week called to deal with a fire at a suspected cannabis factory in Tettenhall, emitting huge plumes of smoke into the atmosphere. A man was arrested, but neighbours are said to be relaxed about the matter. Very relaxed indeed.

JUST when you think you have heard everything, Aaron Parfitt, 14, has been suspended from his school in Blackpool for organising a walk-out because he felt he was not getting enough homework. He complained he was passed from pillar to post when he tried to raise concerns about the quality of his teaching with Blackpool Council and Ofsted. He managed to persuade 100 of his peers to join him in his protest. I know teenagers will do anything for a day off school, but demanding more homework? The news comes a week after fellow Blackpool resident Gemma Worrall hit the headlines because she thought 'barocco barn' was Britain's head of state. They must have some really good schools up there.



The Hippodrome building's crumbling facade



Inside the former top entertainment venue



The Dudley Hippodrome back in its heyday

Theatre just not viable, says expert

ANDREW TURTON reports on findings that call into question the reasoning for saving Dudley Hippodrome

IT is a report which delves into questions at the heart of a campaign to save the Dudley Hippodrome from being bulldozed into oblivion.

Experts are set the task to analyse the future for the theatre and whether hope to reopen the Hippodrome can become a reality.

Dudley Council spent £2,750 commissioning consultants to appraise a business plan compiled by campaigners to run the landmark theatre.

Now we can reveal the contents of that report after being granted access through a Freedom of Information request.

Herefordshire-based consultants Art-service were commissioned last year to look at the future of the building which celebrated its 75th anniversary last year.

Now the stark prediction dealt by consultant Alun Bond reveals concerns for the future.

Lifestyle

"The Hippodrome is a major theatre and has undoubtedly played an important and memorable role in the cultural life of Dudley and its people," he said. "In its heyday, would have been a major resource to the borough."

"Unfortunately, due to the radical changes in lifestyle and leisure consumption that have taken place, its isolated location, the loss of its technical facilities, and the changes that have occurred in the regional market for theatre and in national touring product availability, mean that it is no longer positioned to be able to compete effectively in the theatre market. It is very difficult to see



Friends of Dudley Hippodrome Chairman Gordon Downing with supporters

therefore how it might be restored to a venue capable of viable and sustainable operation."

One crucial issue he identified was competition from other Midland theatres and potential for barring clauses stopping certain shows from appearing at the nearby Dudley Hippodrome. Such clauses can prevent a touring company or performer playing two theatres within a certain distance and time period of each other.

He said this potentially could include theatres like Wolverhampton's Grand

He did add that the Hippodrome could play a role as a live music venue and may attract some visiting shows due to its large capacity. He also said the venue could conflict with the programme of shows already at borough venues such as Dudley Town Hall.

Yet friends group chairman Gordon Downing said this would not be a problem.

"Personally I'm not looking at staging one-off nights," Mr Downing said. "I would prefer shows to come in Tuesday to Saturday."

"The fact that they say there is not enough room on the circuit, I can't imagine that one extra theatre would make much difference to them at all. They would only be working for one week extra and getting extra profit from that."

Mr Bond suggests a capital investment of between £5m and £10m would be needed along with a 'significant' annual council subsidy of at least £300,000 to £400,000 a year.

Many theatres are owned by local authorities but are now often managed by trusts or separate commercial operators, the report says.

Mr Bond says the 'danger' is the friends group would be unable to attract the funding required should it be retained and run on a voluntary basis.

But Mr Downing questioned the need for financial involvement by the council and says the friends group have never asked for support in annual subsidies.

"We never say it would be run by volunteers," he said. "Volunteering would mainly just be able help clearing it initially."

"Depending on the situation we would be looking to employ 15 to 16 full time staff."

Mr Downing added: "We have not asked for any money at all from the council but why shouldn't we have its co-operation at least. We want the council just to come back to the table and listen to us and see our vision."

THROUGH THE YEARS

1984

FIFTY patients, many attached to life support machines, were evacuated from Wolverhampton's Royal Hospital as a blazing roof threatened to engulf the entire top floor.

A HIGH Court judge ordered the miners' union to call off flying pickets from travelling to pits which continued to operate during the strike. Mr Justice Nolan granted the National Coal Board an injunction under the controversial Employment Act

GERRY Adams, the Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast, was gunned down in his car during a lunch break from a court case he was involved in. He was taken to Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast after being shot in the city.

1994

CHART toppers Chaka Demus and Pliers appeared in Wolverhampton for the first time, but didn't get quite the reaction they had been hoping for. Angry fans threatened to walk out as they became tired of waiting for the band. The concert started at 7.30pm, but the group did not take to the stage until 10pm.

KIDNEY patients from Wolverhampton were flying to India for transplants because of a shortage of organs in Britain. Five people from the town had paid around £2,500 for the operations in Bombay clinics. The donors, from India's poorer classes, were risking their lives for as little as £200, it was claimed.

2004

A FRUIT and veg seller who fought a three-year battle for the right to sell in pounds and ounces died from a suspected heart attack at the age of 39. Steven Thoburn, from Sunderland, had been prosecuted for breaching the Weights and Measures Act by selling bananas by the pound. His Imperial scales were confiscated and he was given a six-month conditional discharge in 2001.

BUS lay-bys were being removed from a busy main road, sparking concerns the move would lead to an increase in congestion. The lay-bys were being blocked up as part of a £1.7m Red Route scheme along Stafford Road in Wolverhampton. Transport chiefs claimed that it would be safer for buses to stop on the main carriageway rather than pulling into lay-bys.

ASTON Villa ruthlessly despatched their Premiership neighbours Wolves with a 4-0 win. There was a brief chance for Wolves to get back into the game on the stroke of half-time but Thomas Sorensen saved a penalty from Vio Ganea.

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HERE we go again – somebody namely Andy Street, the managing director of John Lewis wants the people of the Black Country to change into Brummies, so that it would make Birmingham more competitive and become part of Greater Birmingham.

He says Wolverhampton, Dudley, Sandwell and Walsall will do! He said we could become like Greater Manchester. He also stresses that we can

keep our own councils also we would be second to nobody. What a laugh!

You may also notice it has been sanctioned by the big firms like Jaguar Land Rover and director Mike Wright because they are a global business and very shortly a John Lewis will be built in Birmingham. So they need Birmingham to look good and take parts of the Black Country as their slaves!

Birmingham have tried all this before. Do they realise that many people past and present have made the Black Country what it is today – world famous. We get bigger and better and

let's face it we do have a city in the Black Country, it's called Wolverhampton.

So we don't need Birmingham, we don't want to upset the people of Birmingham. We wish them all the luck in the world, but the Black Country has expanded so much in recent years we are now bigger and better than Birmingham. And I'm sure we have plans of our own, but one thing is certain we will never become Brummies. We ain't for sale.

J WARDLE
Stourbridge

Common sense on the theatre

I READ in the Dudley Chronicle dated March 6 that Ken Dodd is adding support to the Dudley Hippodrome campaign that is hoping to restore the theatre.

As an opponent to this idea I wonder how often Mr Dodd drives into town past Castle Hill Island and sees this monstrosity? Certainly not as frequently as most of us.

The amount of money needed to fund this must be millions of pounds and I hope that the council is not thinking of using tax payers' money to fund this, especially as the famous 'stage' is no longer there.

It is time for common sense to be applied to this issue.

J ABBISS
Milking Bank
Dudley

LETTERS to the Editor

POST

Dudley Chronicle,
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

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Parking charges deter hospital visits

HOW long before some poor soul has to go without hospital treatment due to parking charges?

Dudley Council's latest cash cow idea to charge residents £95 per year to park outside their own homes, will only increase the coffers of the private company that inflicts the sick tax on hospital visitors, patients and staff, by further enforcing their parking monopoly in the area.

The council must be made to understand that it is not their right to help finance the private company that owns Russell's Hall Hospital parking rights by putting unnatural parking restrictions around the hospital residential area. The more the council help them by restricting parking in the hospital area, the more the private companies can charge us to park.

In North Staffordshire we have no hospital of our own so we have to travel by car as there is no direct bus to the hospital. How long will it be before someone has to avoid visiting a friend or family member or even having hospital treatment just because they cannot afford to park on, or are restricted from parking near, to the hospital?

UKIP are the only local political party to vigilantly oppose all hospital car park charges in our area.

G E FANTHOM
Swindon Village

Facing a doctor dilemma

I TRIED to book to see my doctor and was told the first available appointment was more than a week away.

If it was an emergency I could ring at 8am the next morning when they opened up slots for people needing to see the doctor urgently.

My problem is a recurring upsetting annoyance which lasts for a couple or three days and then disappears. I have spoken to the doctor before but as all the symptoms had disappeared again he was unable to do anything. If I take the appointment for eight days' time, the problem could have righted itself again – so I will be back where I started.

All I and most other people want is an appointment within a couple of days without having to feel guilty for taking an emergency slot that someone more deserving could have used.

J JAMES
Stourbridge

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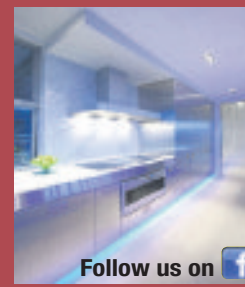
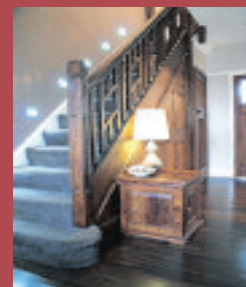


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10mm Gravel



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20mm Gravel



20mm Gravel 20mm used for landscaping, garden paths, driveways and as decorative chippings.

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Speaker in talk on Kays catalogue

WOLLASTON E TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 50 members and two visitors to the February meeting and read out the list of apologies.

The secretary then presented the minutes of the last meeting which were duly passed and signed. The treasurer continued with a favourable account of the finances.

Sub-section leaders reported that their respective groups, namely floral art, arts and crafts, tea and talents and rambles, were all well attended. Bowling resumes at the beginning of April.

A visit to Hagley Hall at 2.30pm on Monday June 2 has been arranged. Numbers for this visit are limited. The cost is £10 which includes light refreshments. The annual dinner has been booked for Tuesday May 6 at Stone Manor, near Kidderminster, commencing from 7.30pm. The cost is £20.

There will be a St George's Day event organised by the federation at Wollaston Village Hall on 23rd April.

The speaker for the evening was Mr Bernard Mills, who with the aid of slides, gave an insight into the Kays of Worcester catalogue.

The company, which has always operated in the Worcester area, has been in existence for more than 200 years.

Raffle prizes for the evening went to Gwyneth Rudge and Enid Lambert.

Excellent meal is dished up at AGM



Back, row, from left, speaker secretary Pauline Handley, treasurer Sandra Chappell, registrar Jan Burrows. Front, raffle Brenda Adkin, outings Ann Rogers and chairman Mary Jones

DUDLEY LADIES LUNCHEON CLUB

ine Handley explained the new programme which included talks on Witley Court, canal art, My Life my Passion, the Old Hall Story, Waterboring in the Grenadines, flower arranging and Nova chocolates.

Ann Rogers was arranging a visit to Dudley Zoo including a cream tea and a coach outing to Gloucester Docks.

Meetings are held on the second Friday each month at 12.30pm. Call the secretary on 01902 372984 for more details.

Record number at last meeting

THE February meeting was held with a record attendance of 61 members and three visitors.

Rob and Diane Cole entertained with amusing slides based on the misuse of gardening and products and also told many anecdotes associated with gardening, including a Scottish village

CLENT GARDEN CLUB

called 'Dull', which is aptly twinned with the town of 'Boring' in America.

Bookings will be taken in the very near future for our two evening visits, the first on June 6 to The Barton at Martley and the second one on June 24 to Hill Close

Gardens at Warwick. At the next meeting at 7.45pm on March 28 at Clent Parish Hall, the speaker will be Kim Hurst on "The True Cottage Garden"

For anyone interested in joining or visiting, log onto clentgardeningclub.wordpress.com/ or call chairman Pat Orme on 01384 394451.

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TV medic signs with growing furniture firm



Managing director Lisa Wardley and Dr Hilary Jones try out Repose chairs at the firm's showroom

A GROWING family-run specialist furniture firm has signed a television medical expert as its health advisor.

Dr Hilary Jones, who appears on GMTV's Daybreak and on Steve Wright's BBC Radio Two show, will be the face of Repose Furniture's range of bespoke chairs which have been developed to meet a wide range of healthcare needs.

Dr Jones visited Repose's new factory in Cokeland Place, Cradley Heath,

to sign a contract and help celebrate the business's 15th anniversary.

The Mayor of Sandwell, Councillor Linda Horton, was among the guests who also visited on the day and she and managing director Lisa Wardley cut a celebration cake.

Growth

Commercial director Keith Fairhurst said that Dr Jones would help Repose to move on to the next stage of its growth.

The company, originally started in Cradley Heath, relocated from Brierley Hill where it had been since 2001

in August last year. Mr Fairhurst said the 23,500 sq ft unit has three times the space of the former premises and gave the company the room it needed to grow.

Repose's turnover grew by 27 per cent last year to £3.2 million and it aims to reach £5m by 2016.

The move has also seen the company recruit 10, increasing its workforce to 33.

Dr Jones said he was delighted to have become the 'medical ambassador' for the business which he said already had a wonderful reputation within the medical market.

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The company perform family favourite The Wiz on stage in 1999



Eurobeat director Maureen Bowyer, left, and Anne Hewitt



A stage adaptation of comic strip favourite Andy Capp from 1991, by the company



A 1990 performance of The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas



The Night Maxi Tortellini Hit Big Lola Latrobes, in 1992

Group to see future in Eurovision for milestone silver anniversary

IT has created lifelong friendships and been served by different generations of the same families – and a musical theatre group is now celebrating its silver anniversary.

The Great Barr Musical Theatre Company has reached a milestone 25 years with its performances still a popular draw for audiences.

And to mark the occasion members will put on a show for a run of four nights – a first for the group. The company's first performance, in 1989, was a production of The Wiz, telling the classic story and musical The Wizard of Oz.

And since then members have gone on to bring a wide range of well-known musicals to the stage – including the Little Shop of Horrors, Guys and Dolls, the Wedding Singer and Boogie Nights.

Members have also performed Return to the Forbidden Planet, Little Me and Real-

MEMORY LANE

by Adam Grinsell

ity the Musical. The group presently has 25 members but are always open to new people who want to join and take part in performances.

It also has its own band which performs the music during shows.

To celebrate the anniversary, the group will be putting on the special performance of musical Eurobeat in July.

The show, described as a 'mickey take' of the Eurovision Song Contest, will see a number of performances from 'contestants'. During the show, the audience is encouraged to get involved by voting for their favourites. It will be staged at the Old Rep Theatre, in Birmingham, from July 1 to 4.

Members of the group said they were very proud to reach the landmark anniversary but admitted it had not always been easy due to production costs and getting new

members on board. Office manager Anne Hewitt, 59 and from Duxford Road, Great Barr, has been a member since the group was founded by friends who convinced her to join.

Both of her daughters have been members of the group in the past, and her husband Gary joined up in 1997. She said: "Being a part of this company gives you great confidence and it's a great sense of being part of something," she said.

Memorable

"I've met some amazing people that have got amazing talent they didn't realise they had. I've had a lot of ups and downs in my life and it's helped me to get over them," she said.

Anne has performed in all of the group's shows and is one of only three original members taking an active role in the company, alongside Albert Lyons and Margaret Pitt – although they have taken breaks from the group. Group secretary Maureen Bowyer said there had been memorable mo-

ments for the group over the years – including the time one member fell into the band pit before a performance. But after emerging unscathed the performer, Shirley Lane, went ahead with her performance.

Maureen said: "It really was a case of the show must go on. It was just before a production of Chicago. After she fell the whole place went totally silent for around 30 seconds until she popped her head out and shouted 'I'm okay'."

Rehearsals for the show are now well under way with the group meeting once a week at the Co-op Rooms, in Walsall Road, Great Barr on Tuesday evenings. And members have also been out and about searching for materials to make the costumes for the new show.

The group says, just like the real Eurovision, there will be a wide range of styles including traditional dress, some 70s Glam rock influenced outfits and some which are a little more bizarre. For ticket or membership inquiries, see www.greatbarmusicaltheatrecompany.co.uk

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Rockville now top of the pops on internet

A NEW Halesowen business which sells classic music publications has won quick recognition from internet giant eBay.

On leaving his job with a Government department last year, Simon Heritage set up Rockville Store, a 'virtual shop' to trade in vintage music items on the popular auction site.

The inspiration for the business, which he runs from his home, came from his lifelong love of music.

Rockville, launched last autumn, specialises in selling vintage copies of music newspapers New Musical Express, Melody Maker and Sounds, as well as concert memorabilia such as programmes and used tickets.

After less than four months trading, Rockville Store has been awarded eBay's top-rated seller status, which is given to high-volume traders who consistently offer an outstanding service.

Mr Heritage, aged 50, originally from Tipton, has lived in Halesowen for more than 15 years. He said: 'I'm really delighted to now be classed as a top-rated seller. It was always a target in my business plan to attain this as soon as possible but I am still a little surprised at how quickly it has been accomplished.'

'It's a nice reward for the long hours and effort put in to getting the business from the drawing board to the point where we now have hundreds of happy customers, all over the world.'

Mr Heritage said a mix of people were buying the retro items he offers.

'Those in my age group might want to revisit their youth, or replace stuff they regret throwing out years ago. On the other hand, thanks to the internet and digital radio, younger people are discovering a much wider range of music, including bands from



Simon Heritage found success with his Rockville 'virtual' music publications store 30 to 40 years ago. Having heard the songs, they then want to read about the band, or even frame an iconic magazine cover for their wall," he explained.

He added: "The single most difficult part of the business is listing items on the eBay site quickly enough. At any

one time, I am likely to have several hundred things piled up and waiting to be uploaded.

"I am hoping to be able to take on extra help to overcome this at some point, and to continue to expand."

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The Bathroom shop

Jolly youth club memories at reunion

MEMBERS of a 'jolly' youth club founded nearly 90 years ago are getting ready for a big reunion. More than 140 former members are expected at the reunion of the Bloomfield Methodist Youth Club in Tipton on Saturday. It was formed by The Rev Ran Holton as 'The Jolly Club', with separate boys' and girls' sections in 1925 and met at the Methodist church in Bloomfield Road, Tipton. It had various names until, in 1978, the church and hall were demolished and members transferred to Tipton Green Methodist Church. The club finally closed in 1986.

Roger Hill, of Mansion Close, Dudley, was the boys' leader from 1965 until 1981 and has produced a DVD showing film of the club's events. Mr Hill said: "We'll be showing the film at our reunion and we're looking forward to a great night with people from Spain and the USA coming over."

Any former member who would like to attend the reunion should contact Patrick Hoban 07876 755568.



Liz Nash, 20, at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC, Birmingham

Science sparks hair-raising fun at the Big Bang Fair

HOW'S this for a hair-raising experience – 20-year-old Liz Nash was one of thousands of young people enjoying the country's biggest science and engineering fair in the West Midlands.

She was trying out a Van de Graaff static electricity generator, one of the many exhibits at The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Fair at the NEC, Birmingham, last weekend.

The event, expected to welcome more than 75,000 people over three days, opened its doors to visitors who came to take part in science experiments, lectures and exhibitions.

Youngsters aged between seven and 19 were able to take part in a number of fun events including the

'Kaboom' show, hosted by TV science presenter Greg Foot that explored the anatomy of an explosion and the chemistry of gunpowder.

For those more interested in their stomachs, TV presenter Stefan Gates took visitors on an interesting journey into the science of their lunch, where they could see rockets, edible insects, flatulence and more loud explosions.

Paul Jackson, chief executive of The Big Bang, said: "The Big Bang Fair is more than just a fun day out. It gives young people the chance to speak to leading scientists and engineers and to see for themselves the range of exciting careers that their science and maths subjects can lead to."



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Burglar is behind bars thanks to schoolboy

A BURGLAR has been jailed after a sharp eyed schoolboy spotted him carrying his loot out of a family home and alerted the police.

Lee Cummins was tracked down after the 13-year-old spotted him and a friend loading a car outside the house and thought he 'looked dodgy'.

Forensic experts later found his DNA on a screwdriver which he had used to break into the home in Torquay.

Exeter Crown Court heard Cummins, aged 36, from Overdale Road, Quinton, admit burglary. He was jailed for 15 months by Judge Jeremy Griggs.

Miss Bathsheba Cassel, prosecuting, said £1,760 worth of jewellery and valuables, including an engagement ring, were taken during the afternoon raid on the house in Barton Road, Torquay, in October. None of the valuables were recovered.

Damage costing £1,800 was caused to rear windows and doors when Cummins and a second man broke in.

Miss Cassel said: "A 13-year-old schoolboy, who was visiting a friend who lived nearby, saw two men in the road placing a suitcase into a car. He heard one man tell the other to hurry up and formed the impression they were, in his words, dodgy. He later identified this defendant in an ID procedure.

"The occupants came back from work at around 5.30pm and could see windows and doors at the rear had been attacked. The master bedroom had been ransacked and there had been untidy searches of other rooms. The owners say items of great sentimental value were taken."

Cummins had previously served a jail term for burglary and had been made subject of a suspended sentence a month before for a burglary on a pet shop.

Miss Mary McCarthy, defending, said Cummins was a hard working builder who had succeeded in staying out of trouble for many years but used amphetamines after splitting up with his long term partner. On the day of the raid he had been using drugs.

She said he was now in a new relationship which will give him stability and enable him to stay out of trouble. He had already served a ten week suspended sentence, activated in December.

Judge Griggs told Cummins: "This sort of offending is particularly upsetting for the victims and you took sentimental items including the owner's mother's engagement ring. You caused great distress through the violation of their home, let alone the inconvenience of replacing keys which were stolen and repairing the damage to the property."

"A further aggravating feature is that this offence occurred within days of you receiving a suspended sentence."

Thousands fed meter for Christmas dinner

MORE than 5,600 families across the Black Country, South Staffordshire and Wyre Forest had to go to the shops on Christmas Day to pay their energy bills.

The figures have been uncovered by Dudley North MP Ian Austin, who said it showed the extent to which people were living in 'fuel poverty'.

The Labour MP asked the bill-paying company PayPoint how many people in each area had to use its machines in newsagents and convenience stores on Christmas Day.

He said it showed there were some people so hard pressed they were having to top up their electricity and gas just to cook the Christmas dinner. The figures showed 5,644 went to shops on December 25 to get credit.

Mr Austin said: "I want the Government to introduce an energy price freeze to help working families with their bills, but they're not taking action."

Villa Park hit hardest by theft

MOBILE phones, cash, debit cards and number plates have been stolen while fans were watching games at West Midlands football grounds, figures show.

Aston Villa saw most complaints of thefts at their stadium in the last three years with 21 incidents recorded by police at Villa Park, which holds almost 43,000 fans, since 2010. In contrast, Wolves' Molineux, which has a capacity of 31,700, saw just seven recorded offences between 2010 and 2014.

West Bromwich Albion's The Hawthorns and Birmingham City's St Andrews saw 18 thefts each while Walsall's Banks's Stadium saw 16 despite the lowest capacity — 11,300 — of the five clubs.

Mobile phones were the most stolen item with 33 swiped at the five grounds in four years.

Come on our Neil in Dexys book salute



Dexys Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton

DEXYS Midnight Runners superfan Neil Warburton has written book about the band's history. The 42-year-old from Oldbury is also long-time friend of the band's mercurial frontman Kevin Rowland.

Mr Warburton first got into the band when a child and the very first record he bought was their 1980 chart-topper Geno. The group's Kevin Rowland lived in the same street as Neil, Apollo Road.

He said: "I remember sitting in front of the TV watching the band and my mum came in and saw Kevin. She said: 'He only lives up the road'. It is not often you find one of your neighbours is your favourite rock star."

Mr Warburton, who still lives in Apollo Road, eventually plucked up the courage to knock on his neighbour's door and ask for an autograph. The two men remain friends.

Mr Warburton's book is a compilation of 15 issues of his fanzine Keep On Running, published from 1995 to 2000, along with new interviews from band members. The book will be launched at Oldbury's Railway Inn and the Court of Requests pub in Church Road on Saturday.

Heroin dealer is back behind bars

A DRUG dealer is back behind bars after being caught selling heroin. Police found 13 wraps of the drug split into £10 deals when they raided the Dudley home of Harry Edwards on October 30, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

There were also three wraps of crack cocaine, three sets of scales, a roll of cling film, mobile phones and a Stanley blade at the address in Queen Street, Pensnett, said Mr Howard Searle, prosecuting.

Edwards, 39, had bought heroin to sell on to others but the cocaine was for his own use, the court heard.

Mr Malcolm Fowler, defending, said father-of-two Edwards had had a long struggle with drug addiction. He had a previous conviction for drug dealing and other offences.

Edwards, admitted possession of heroin with intent to supply and possession of cocaine and was jailed for three years ten months by Judge John Warner, who told him: "You have a very bad record spread over many years."

Canal heritage volunteer was a convicted sex offender

A SEX offender banned from contact with children got a voluntary job with a canal group visited by youngsters.

Edward 'Eddy' Hunt, 68, was a volunteer with Dudley Canal Trust for three years before his past was discovered. Wolverhampton Crown Court was told. He had twice been jailed for offences involving children and been cautioned for possession of child porn. The trust took him on without

checking if he had a criminal past, revealed Mr Geoffrey Dann, prosecuting.

Hunt, of Park Village, who joined the trust in 2010, sometimes met school groups. Mr Dann added: "He was not left alone with the children, who had a teacher with them, but that action was a breach of the Sex Offender Prevention Order."

He was arrested in September after a sex offender manager, who took over his case, learned Hunt had contact with children as a volunteer. Mr David

Bratt, defending, said: "He had not kept this secret. The previous offender manager had been advised where he was working."

Hunt, of Mickley Avenue, admitted breaking terms of the order and was given a three year community order and 24-week curfew. Trust director Alan Hazeldine said: "Dudley Canal Trust is reviewing all its operating and volunteer manning procedures in order to eliminate the possibility of this ever happening again."



Perver Edward Hunt

School to get road crossing

A ZEBRA crossing will be introduced outside a school in a bid to improve children's safety, at a cost of £20,000.

Dudley Council is to install the crossing on the Hagley Road, outside the Hasbury Primary School, in Halesowen.

Transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed made the decision after a consultation with residents, police and transport operators last month. Only one objection was made from a nearby resident concerned of the impact on property prices.

Councillor Ahmed said: "Having given consideration to the comments and observations received as well as the aims of the scheme to improve road safety, it is felt to be appropriate that the introduction of pedestrian crossing should proceed."

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Sandwell lack of qualifications

TWO areas of the Black Country have among the highest proportion of residents with no qualifications in the country.

Sandwell was placed third out of nearly 350 authorities for the highest amount of people between the ages of 16 and 64 who have no academic or professional qualifications while Walsall was placed sixth in the research by the Office of National Statistics.

The data comes from the 2011 census. According to the figures, nearly 50,000 people in Sandwell have no level of qualification, including GCSEs, A Levels, vocational qualifications or degrees, which equates to around one in four people in the borough.

Sandwell Council's cabinet member for children's services, Councillor Simon Hackett, said officials were doing what they could to improve that figure.

Sir Trevor to open £1.2m football centre



An aerial view of Kewford Eagles facilities at Wall Heath

WORK has been completed on a £1.2 million football centre to coach the next generation of players, ahead of an official opening by one of the legends of the game.

More than 550 young footballers play for Kewford Eagles FC which has created a new centre of excellence in Wall Heath, Kingswinford.

Former England international Sir Trevor Brooking will officially open the new facility at the club's ground in Swindon Road on April 26.

Eleven new football pitches have been landscaped and created over the past 12 months on the ground neighbouring Dudley Kingswinford Rugby Club.

Cash for the project came in the form of grants from the Football Foundation, Sport England, Cory Environmental and other funders.

A new sports pavilion has been built as part of the works alongside a car park on the 30-acre site.

There are also four changing rooms, toilets and a kitchen created as part of the development.

Sir Trevor will make the official opening from 12noon.

Kia crashes into a High Street takeaway

A MOTORIST was taken to hospital after her car clipped a parked vehicle before crashing into a shop front.

The woman suffered suspected spinal injuries in the crash which closed Dudley High Street for around 90 minutes on Monday. The fire service, ambulance and police were called to the scene at just before 11am after the black Kia crashed into Caspian Pizza shop.

Watch commander Paul Clark said: "We assisted paramedics to get a female, the driver, out of the vehicle using a long board. They treated her for suspected spine and neck injuries and took her to hospital. She had collided with a parked car and come to a rest against the shop."

Ryan Richards, owner of Slicks hairdressers next door to the takeaway, said: "It was cutting hair, and then boom. There was a loud bang and the car's in the wall."

A structural engineer from Dudley Council checked the building was safe and National Grid capped a gas pipe.

Warning on car cat crime as thieves chop off converters

A RETIRED foundry worker is appealing for help to track down 'cat crooks' who cut a valuable chunk out of his car exhaust in the latest in a spate of similar attacks.

Raiders jacked Ray Harvey's car up on his drive in Stourbridge during the early hours and hacked off its catalytic converter.

It follows police warnings and a campaign urging motorists to security mark their vehicles after more than 70 catalytic converters

— known as 'cats' — were stolen from cars and vans in Dudley.

Mr Harvey, aged 63, of Peak Road, Penfields, only realised what had happened when he heard a banging noise, followed by the exhaust falling off, as he started the car a few hours later.

Their son-in-law, unemployed mechanic Andre Didlick, of Amblecote, discovered that the 'cat' was missing.

Mr Harvey said: "They cost about £300 to replace. Thieves target them because they can sell the metals off for £200 or more and I would like to know if anyone saw the thieves."

A neighbour's CCTV caught the thieves on camera jacking up the car at 4.50am on March 8 and it took just three minutes 10 seconds for them to remove the 'cat'.

The footage showed the shadowy images of two men who arrived in a black car.

More than 70 catalytic converters were stolen in Dudley between April and December with thieves targeting vehicles including Mercedes Sprinter vans, Kia, Mitsubishi, Ford, Peugeot, Citroen and Hyundai. Police urge drivers not to park their cars with two wheels on the kerb because it gives easier access.

Teens rescued from reservoir

THREE teenagers were rescued from a water ski ramp after becoming stranded in the middle of a reservoir when their dinghy burst.

Two 15-year-old boys and a 16-year-old boy had been using a dinghy at Lodge Farm Reservoir, in Highbridge Road, Netherton, on Saturday.

Firefighters and a water rescue unit were called to the reservoir, which is used by Dudley Water Ski Club, at about 5pm. The teenagers are not believed to have been members. Fire crews used an inflatable boat to bring the boys back to shore.

Watch commander Roy Whitehead, from Brierley Hill fire station, said the boys were not stuck there for very long and were all okay.

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Apprentices brush up on their Deutsch



Billy Meldrum, Doosan Babcock's training manager, with engineering apprentices Danny Lord and Lucy Green

A GROUP of engineering apprentices from the Black Country have had a crash course in speaking German ahead of a cultural exchange.

Training experts BCTG, based in Oldbury, are taking the apprentices on a two-week work experience programme to businesses in Leipzig, Germany.

Another group of apprentices will head for Rybnik, in Poland, as part of the programme. In total 32 young engineers based at Doosan Babcock in Tipton will get the chance to work with their European counterparts and take in some of the culture when they travel to Doosan Babcock Energy Polska and Doosan Babcock Energy Germany.

Taking care with survey

RESIDENTS who look after friends, family or neighbours are being asked to contribute to a West Midlands-wide project focusing on training opportunities for carers.

The project aims to see which training sessions, workshops and online courses are the most useful for carers.

Feedback from them will shape future training opportunities and could help to create a wider choice of courses.

Councillor Barbara McCracken, portfolio holder for social care in Walsall is working with Suzanne Joyner, head of community care, to raise awareness of the project. She said: "People are not necessarily trained to do some of the things they need to do as part of their caring role and any

support they can access can help make a real difference to them. We are asking carers to take part in a survey to tell us exactly what they think of existing training opportunities."

The survey which is available at www.surveymonkey.com/s/Carerstraining is open until May 15. It can be completed anonymously but those who give their details will be entered into a prize draw to win a £20 gift voucher for a store of their choice.

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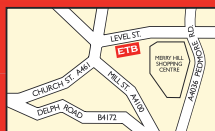
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Two reasons to enjoy St Patrick's Day

Ciannad/Mary Black, Symphony Hall, Birmingham
ST PATRICK'S Day came to the Second City in two servings this year as the Symphony Hall hosted Dubliner Mary Black and Donegal band Clannad.

Veteran Black, who has been singing for more than 30 years, opened with Another Day, a fairly fast number and followed by one from her most recent album Stories from the Steeple, Moun-

tains to the Sea which saw Black really get into her stride. She gave the audience a good range of her repertoire which included All the Fine Young Men about the tragedy of WWI and indeed all wars. She went out, rather appropriately, with Song for Ireland which she sang with genuine emotion.

Clannad, who this year received a life time achievement award at BBC2 Folk Awards, took to the stage opening with the ethereal and atmospheric

Vellum from their new album Nadur and then proceeded to give the eager audience a good mix of old and new starting with another one from the same album Rhapsody nag Crann (Rhapsody of the Trees).

Moya Brennan's voice is just as haunting as the first time they came to major prominence more than three decades ago with the theme from Harry's Game, part of the set.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Dan is the man ready to step up

Jim Causley/Daniel Kirk, Newhampton Folk Club, Wolverhampton
COMETH the hour cometh the Dan.

Wolverhampton singer and guitarist Daniel Kirk saved the night when Devon musician Jim Causley had to give in to a cold.

The accordion playing singer tried his best to do his set but his voice just wasn't up to it. Apologising profusely, he had to call it a day after a few songs. It was a shame because underneath his viral attack there was a melodic voice worth listening to. He struggled with opener Polly Vaughan and by the time he got to In the Sidings he had to concede.

So support act Kirk, having already been warmly received by the audience, stepped into the breach.

There were no complaints as Kirk has a damn good voice. With songs such as Alabama Pines, 3AM, House Carpenter and Riding to New York he made sure everyone got their money's worth.

DANNY FARRAGHER

Reviews



A scene from West End Beatles blockbuster Let It Be

Let It Be a night of Fab Four nostalgia

Let It Be, New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham
IF this was meant to Please Me it certainly did the job.

Let It Be was non-stop entertainment and got everyone out of their seats singing and dancing.

Four mop-heads whose impersonations were spot-on brought Beatlemania back to Birmingham.

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Direct from the West End, the hit show celebrates the legacy of the world's greatest rock 'n' roll band.

It took the audience on a musical journey of the Beatles' meteoric rise, from their humble beginnings in Liverpool's Cavern Club, through the heights of Beatlemania, to their later studio masterpieces, and, of course, Let It Be.

For those who love the Beatles, this show is as about as good as it gets.

Let It Be continues to Saturday.

SUE ATTWATER

A legend reborn at age of 72

Rodriguez, Symphony Hall, Birmingham

SIXTO Rodriguez is an enigma. For a man who has only ever released two albums and then disappeared off the radar for the best part of 30 years, it is incredible the following that he has.

He was working on a third album when his record company folded and he disappeared from the music scene. Through a website called The Great Rodriguez Hunt it was found he was still in Detroit and two South Africans brought him back to the world stage.

That's how at the age of 72, looking a fragile figure, he was helped on to the Symphony Hall podium.

Once he started strumming his guitar and facing up to the microphone he showed remarkable spirit.

The septuagenarian in his suit and top hat gave the crowd what they had come for, his own songs.

In his own words: "All I want is to be treated like an ordinary legend."

DANNY FARRAGHER

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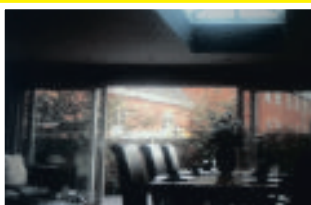
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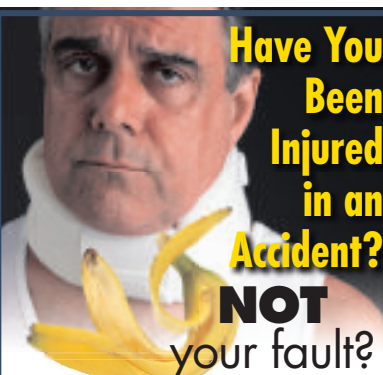
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Women seeking men

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CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTm tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627

SAM 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499

73YR old hereford lady. GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331

FEMALE 65, attractive, much younger looking, slim but curvy 5ft 2ins, blonde, seeks younger man. Loves animals and cosy nights in. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 431920

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of tlc to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411039

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 408291

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times with, if that's you pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410949

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 366019

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 409991

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JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410105

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408995

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoys fun/good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733

ABI creative free spirited lady enjoys drama, photography, music, WLTm well-spoken patient, independent non-judgmental man. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409723

NICKY bubbly curvy fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking N/S male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTm for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715

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NEETA Black beauty, classy, intelligent 21yrs, likes to enjoy life, have lots of fun and be spoilt, give me a call. Any age looks and status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409101

Hi I'm Pam, cuddly, attractive, self-sufficient, employed, looking for similar young looking, sincere male for hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407933

MARGARET OHAC, professional, sincere, adventurous, loving, kind, solvent lady who enjoys most things WLTm caring male with similar refined tastes. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407925

ATTRACTIVE 49yr old divorced lady, looking for honest, reliable man for LTR, 49-65. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409955

ABBA girl blonde lookalike, size 16, attractive, bubbly, OHAC, seeking solvent, refined, handsome guy with full head of hair. 5ft 9ins plus, professional and courteous. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409151

KATH blonde independent female, employed with OHAC looking for fun and laughter with likeminded nice easy going male, any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407955

TRACY slim dark haired beauty, petite, hardworking career, enjoys dancing, nights out, WLTm loving male who can make me laugh for an adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409419

SHARON very attractive British black lady, sexy size 6 looking for white male to fall in love with. Beautiful people can be lonely too. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409263

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

ANITA very attractive black female, seeking mature white/Asian man to enjoy uncomplicated relationship with no lies. Any age, pls contact me, I'm very lonely. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408505

FEMALE many interests, seeks male, 40-55 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408537

28YR old female, seeking male with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408639

MIXED raced lady, 34, widely travelled, seeking gent, 30-40 for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408429

68YR old lady, likes gardening, meals out, days out, looking for sincere gent to share time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408413

JENNY single independent attractive lady, tall and leggy, sensual and looking for very special male friend. Only genuine callers pls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408285

CHRIS blue eyed blonde single female, lots of interests, loves travel, beach, nights in/out, looking for mature sincere gent for possible ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407615

FEMALE looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

Hi I'm Jo, first timer, newly divorced perfect size 10, blonde, attractive, tactile and looking to fall in love again. Age unimportant, dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408088

SUSIE 32yr old nurse who likes cosy nights in with a good bottle of wine and spending quality times with great company, if you feel the same pls get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408877

BABS 27yrs slender with dark haired passionate Italian who loves to dance, eat out, looking for nice n's male to spend quality adult time with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407943

BUBBLY 60 plus lady, slim, fair hair, comfy in jeans and leather jacket, seeks similar male for friendship etc. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408859

JOANNA 34, in need of tlc, winning, dining being treated like the princess I am, looking for sugar daddy, that someone special to love me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408869

MARIA gorgeous outgoing bubbly 27, good fun, caring, romantic, looking for that special someone to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408733

KIM attractive single lady new to area looking for meet new friends and maybe a new love interest. I have many hobbies and am interesting to know, pls call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408489

TAYLOR attractive very busty curvy black female looking for fun times with open-minded male who is also looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408311

BETHANY 25yr old blonde, slim size 10 with great personality, looking for nice guy to share my life with, single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408253

KIRSTY blonde blue eyed size 12 nurse, enjoys cosy nights, driving, holidays, socialising, WLTm broadminded male for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409259

62YR old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

CAROL 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 401853

ATTRACTIVE female, young 49, 5ft 7ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, genuine, loyal, easygoing, GSOH, seeks tall, handsome male, 40-50 for fun times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406135

LITTLE bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

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BLACK female, 45, seeking older lady, 60 plus who knows how to look after a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407787

PAM 71, feels younger, lots to give, socialising, theatre, country walks, charity work, seeking male to share interests with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407851

LOVING caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

MANDY divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407469

NICKY 26 fun single female who has been on her own far too long desperately seeking her Prince Charming, must be tactile and possesses the ability to fall in love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407485

MICHELLE lonely single, fit/slender, passionate, easy-going seeks male to cook for and generally spoil rotten in exchange for great companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407501

HEATHER larger than life, cuddly built lady, scrubs up pretty well, employed, OHAC, GSOH, looking for good times with willing male, fun times guaranteed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407307

SUE attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407021

CURVY Irish female 35yrs looking for fun, frolics, weekends away and lots of excitement with reliable male, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407603

SLIM active lady, 60's, N's, seeks honest, kind gent, 57-62 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407693

ANNABELLA board attractive 30 something nurse wanting healing hands for no strings fun. No TLC required. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407449

SUE 40's female who enjoys evenings in/out looking for someone to have some fun and hopefully get close to, go on, give me a ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407019

NICKY loving caring gorgeous fun young lady who loves swimming, dancing and lots more, seeking male for text chats and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407459

PAULA 38 single mum with OHAC, attractive blue eyes, size 14, seeking well built male with GSOH and honest/reliable disposition, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407029

MEDIUM build female, 66, widow, 5ft 5ins, likes walks, reading, holidays, seeks sincere male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407003

Hi I am Linda a lovely petite mature lady looking for a nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406715

ANITA petite 33yr old tanned, toned sexy size 10 female with very high drive and lots of energy looking for similar man for adult no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406835

CARING female, likes Indian rock music, concerts, cinema, seeks North Staffs male, 40-55 for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406757

LINDA bored housewife wanting to spice things up a bit looking for clean well mannered professional for discreet adult meets. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406705

GOOD looking professional female, 51, enjoys arts, wining/dining, sight seeing, country walks, seeks special male to enjoy great fun with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406765

DONNA 42yrs young separated female who is ready to start dating again, bubbly, attractive, blonde and raring to get going, come on don't keep me waiting! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406341

SINGLE cuddly female, 5ft 6ins, green eyes, seeks male, 40-50 for fun and more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406015

PAT 67, attractive, likes reading, holidays, seeking female, 65-72 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 405985

TRACY 39yr old blonde petite single mum, WLTm tall male for nights out, text chats and hopefully ltr. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407215

LYN slim size 10, 5ft 9ins, attractive with GSOH, OHC, employed, WLTm genuine guy who is also looking to put some fun back into life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407195

DEBS 37yr old professional, outgoing, bubbly, seeking genuine man for good times in/out and just see where it leads. Single dad welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407039

BLONDE blue eyed 72yr old widow, GSOH, young at heart, seeks honest, caring gent of similar age for holidays, weekends away and happy times, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407113

WHERE have all the genuine men gone? Sue single female who enjoys nights in/out, music, seeks sincere male to enjoy good times and get close to. Pls ring. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 407025

Men seeking women

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66YR old male enjoys country walks, pubs, and cycling seeks similar minded lady to share life, 60ish. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4330594

STEVE 63, tall, fit, energetic, N/S, seeks lady, 55-60 for friendship and who knows. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410941

SHROPSHIRE male, 49yrs, caring, looking for single lady for relationship 40/50. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4333566

GOOD looking tanned guy blue eyes good physique 45, looking for an attractive likeminded slim female 19-40. Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4320125

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261

PETE 6ft 1ins, body builder, likes kick boxing, daughter, seeking female, 30-40 for love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410245

MALE 55, 5ft 10ins, seeks lady 30-58 for cosy nights in, holidays, nights out, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410207

STEVE 40, 6ft, muscular, dark hair, half Italian, seeks busy, classy lady, 55 plus for discreet adult fun. Where is my Sophia Loren? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410529

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional gent, easy going, GSOH, likes sport, socialising, company, seeking similar lady with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410175

MALE 47, would like loving, adult relationship, age/size unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410107

DAN 36, down to earth, attractive, enjoy pubs, meals out, football, boxing, cinema, shopping, seeking special female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410037

GENUINE South Shropshire male, 45, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, likes walks, cycling, music, seeks lady of similar age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408987

NICK GSOH, looking for someone caring to share fun and frolics. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410001

6FT male, medium build, brown eyes, dark hair, fit, likes walks, football, holidays, country drives, seeks nice bubbly lady with many interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409851

PAUL 55, 6ft 2ins, intelligent, down to earth, kind, genuine, honest, seeks female, 50-60 for relationship, many hobbies. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409783

DAVE 54, seeking female, 40-51 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409839

SEAN 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845

PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410799

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, broadminded, adventurous, clean, discreet, GSOH, easy going, good company, looking for lady



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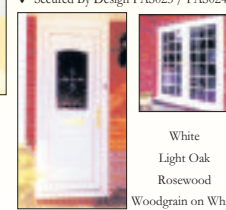
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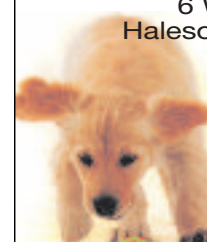
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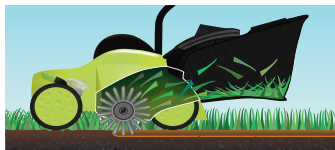
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Radio Robin 2 to get a preview

THE Robin 2 in Bilston which features many folk, blues and acoustic artists has added a radio station to its website — Robin 2 Radio. The station can be accessed through the club's homepage, just click on the icon. It's provided through the club's site partners DeliRadio, and exclusively features artists who perform at the Bilston club.

The internet radio station has just been created, so it is limited at the moment but will build up over coming weeks and will be an excellent way to preview forthcoming acts.

On the back of their new album folk/rockers Oysterband will be playing the venue tonight supported by Rumours of Spring. Tickets £16, doors open 7.30pm.

Sound of young and old America

THERE are some exciting gigs over the next few days for R&B and pop fans.

On Saturday Miami's Jason Derulo holds court at the NIA. Motown will be heard when The Four Tops and The Temptations are joined by Freda Payne at the NIA on Sunday.

Chart-topping Canadian rapper Drake is at the NIA tonight and tomorrow, while The Wanted will be Glad You Came at the LG Arena tonight, which also the night Gabrielle continues her comeback at Birmingham Town Hall.

Also tonight, The Big Reunion's 911 are at The Institute in Birmingham.

Musical will rain supreme

FRESH from its success in London's West End, the hit revival of *Singin' In The Rain* splashes into Birmingham this week.

Set in the golden age of Hollywood, this broily twirling classic will be staged at Birmingham Hippodrome until Saturday, April 5. Extra performances have been added due to popular demand.

The show features Maxwell Caulfield as studio boss RF Simpson, Faye Tozer as starlet Lina Lamont and James Leese as silent movie star Don Lockwood — and a downpour on stage! Get ready for such songs as *Make 'Em Laugh*, *Good Morning* and, of course, *Singin' In The Rain*. If sitting in the front row, better wear a sowester.

Tickets are priced £16 to £45, available online at www.birminghamhippodrome.com or on 0844 338 5000.



Turn your umbrella upside down to enjoy *Singin' In The Rain* at the Hippodrome

THE NIGHT the horrors of the First World War came to the Black Country will be recalled in a unique community opera, *Zeppelin Dreams*, with three performances at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre tonight and tomorrow.

Part of the theatre's programme to mark the 100th anniversary of the start of the war, this production looks at the evening in 1916 when one of the largest German airships ever built got lost in the fog on the way to attack Liverpool's docks and dropped its bombs on the Black Country instead, killing 35 people.

More later died of their injuries. The victims included three generations of one family in Tipton, a courting couple in Bradley and Walsall's mayoress.

This community co-production with English Touring Opera includes an evening performance tonight (Thursday) and two performances tomorrow.

Tickets cost £7.50, from the website at www.grandtheatre.info, by phone on 01902 429212, or in person at the box office in Lichfield Street.

The Grand hosts Lesley Joseph in naughty girls' night out musical *Hot Flush* on Saturday.

The Russian State Ballet and Orchestra of Siberia present a selection of ballets at the Grand starting with *Sleeping Beauty* on Sunday at 4pm. There are perfor-

NME tour will showcase the best

A SHOWCASE for three of the best new bands will be headlined by one of New York's finest groups of recent years when the NME Awards Tour 2014 comes to Birmingham next week.

Tuesday's gig has switched from the O2 Academy to Digbeth's Institute, featuring Liverpool's Circa Waves, Brighton garage rock duo Royal Blood and Kettering psychedelic hipsters Temples, whilst NYC's Interpol top the bill.

Other rock gigs include Irish outfit Kodamine at the O2 Academy tonight and Franz Ferdinand at the same venue tomorrow. Punk veterans Stiff Little Fingers are at the Wulfrun Hall tomorrow and The Stranglers are at the O2 Academy on Saturday.

Oscillators and synths celebrated

MASTERS of moody electronics Alison Goldfrapp and Will Gregory have been realising their cinematic ambitions via the *Tales Of Us* film with director Lisa Gunning and a live performance recently beamed to the nation's cinema screens. Goldfrapp will be in the flesh at Birmingham Symphony Hall on Wednesday, March 26.

The Radiophonic Workshop — famed for the Doctor Who theme — come to Birmingham on their first live tour. The Regeneration Tour includes a tribute to fellow electronic music pioneer Delia Derbyshire at the Town Hall on Monday.



Aldersley pupils in the show

mances of *Giselle* (Monday, 7.30pm) and *Swan Lake* (Tuesday, 2.30 and 7.30pm).

Nostalgic musical *Dreamboats And Petticoats*, featuring hits from the early 1960s and written by Birds Of A Feather team Marks and Gran, is at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday.

Another community opera venture, Mack The Knife musical Brecht and Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*, is staged at Birmingham Rep from March 27 to April 12.

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Tom Jones

The Voice UK BBC1, 6.45pm

As much as we love the BBC's answer to The X Factor, at times you need the stamina of Davina McCall to sit through an entire episode, so get plenty of cushions and snacks for this, the first live round of the singing contest. The brilliant Emma Willis and Marvin Humes introduce the action as the remaining dozen acts fight it out for a place in the semi-final. After three acts in each team have performed, Tom Jones, Will.i.am, Kylie Minogue and Ricky Wilson will choose one act to go straight through to the next stage.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.00** Football Focus. **12.45** Saturday Sportsday. **1.00** BBC News: Regional News. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.45** Davina: Beyond Breaking Point. (R) **3.45** Reflex. **4.30** Final Score. **5.10** BBC News: Regional News. **5.25** Sport Relief: The Best Bits. **6.45** The Voice UK. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present the first live round of the singing contest, in which the 12 remaining acts perform for a place in the semi-final. **8.40** The National Lottery Live. Kate Garraway reveals the results of the Lotto and the Thunderball, with music by Little Mix. **8.50** The Voice UK Results. Emma Willis and Marvin Humes present as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson choose one act each, leaving them with just two for next week's semi-final. **9.25** Casualty. Ethan's conscience is tested when an activist asks him to hide his secrets, while Rita and Zoe help a desperate prisoner repair his relationship with his mother. **10.15** BBC News: Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Arsenal at Stamford Bridge and Cardiff City v Liverpool at the Cardiff City Stadium; National Lottery Update. **12.05** The Football League Show. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **6.15** Tom Kerridge: Proper Pub Food. (R) **6.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **7.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.15** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **8.45** Sport Relief's Top Dog. (R) **9.15** Lie on Earth. (R) **10.10** The Nature of Britain. (R) **11.00** Fred Dibnah's Made in Britain. (R) **11.30** Great British Railway Journeys. (R) **12.00** James Martin: Home Comforts. (R) **12.30** Mary Berry Cooks. (R) **1.00** Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. **1.05** Gregory Peck: Talking Pictures. (R) **1.35** Film: Spellbound. (1945) **3.25** Ingrid Bergman: Talking Pictures. (R) **4.00** Film: Notorious. (1946) **5.40** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **6.40** Don't Panic! The Dad's Army Story. Victoria Wood celebrates the comedy. (R) **7.30** Dad's Army. Walker is accused of treason. (R) **8.00** The Perfect Marmalade & Wise. Glenda Jackson dons a ballgown to bring a touch of class to proceedings. **8.30** The Plantagenets. Robert Bartlett tells the story of England's longest-ruling royal dynasty, beginning by examining how Henry II forged an empire after ascending the throne in 1154. (R) **9.30** QI XL. Extended edition. **10.15** Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle. The comedian explores more themes. **10.45** Glasgow: Big Night Out. The city through the eyes of acts who have performed there. (R) **11.45** Film: Savage Grace. (2007) Fact-based drama, starring Julianne Moore. **1.15** Film: The Secret in Their Eyes. (2009) **3.15** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Animals. (R) **6.55** Animals. (R) **7.00** Animals. (R) **7.10** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Scrambled. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Dinner Date. (R) **10.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **11.20** ITV News: Weather. **11.30** The Crocodile Hunter Diaries. (R) **12.00** The Chase. (R) **1.00** The Unforgettable Noel Gordon. (R) **1.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **3.30** Film: Kindergarten Cop. (1990) **5.35** Regional Programme: Weather. **5.45** ITV News: Weather. **6.00** You've Been Framed! A-Z of Animals. Harry Hill takes an alphabetical look at videos from the animal kingdom, and targets merry mishaps pertaining to all 26 letters. **7.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo welcome presenter Christine Bleakley, and are assisted in their duties by guest announcers the Muppets. Little Ant and Dec also meet Samuel L. Jackson and Scarlett Johansson. **8.25** The Cube. A personal trainer tackles a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.25** The Americans. Elizabeth receives a distress signal, and Philip tries to work out what the consequences of their last operation will be for their family. **10.20** ITV News: Weather. **10.35** Film: Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason. (2004) Romantic comedy sequel, with Renee Zellweger. **12.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Close. **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Trans World Sport. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **9.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.45** How I Met Your Mother. **11.15** How I Met Your Mother. **11.45** The Simpsons. (R) **12.15** The Simpsons. (R) **12.40** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.40** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.40** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.15** Come Dine with Me. Boe Oleye hosts the final dinner party in north London. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **7.05** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. The team investigates an attack on students at SHIELD's academy of science and technology, while Coulson and May meet a former agent who reveals startling information about Skye. (R) **8.00** Hostages. Duncan locks the Sanders family in a room for the day while he and his team head to New York to eliminate the snipers targeting President Kincaid. Starring Toni Collette. **9.00** Film: Rush Hour 3. (2007) An assassination attempt sets mismatched detectives Lee and Carter off on a mission to take on Triad gangs in Paris. Action comedy sequel, starring Jackie Chan and Chris Tucker. **10.40** Film: Daredevil. (2003) Comic-book adventure, starring Ben Affleck. **12.40** Film: Election. (1999) **2.25** The Good Wife. (R) **3.15** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.15** Deal or No Deal. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** The Dog Rescuers. (R) **10.30** It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.30** Film: The Bridge at Remagen. (1969) Second World War adventure, starring George Segal. **3.45** Film: Stone Cold. (2005) Detective drama, starring Tom Selleck. **5.30** Film: Columbo: Old Fashioned Murder. (1976) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **6.50** Longmire. New series. Crime drama, starring Robert Taylor as Wyoming sheriff Walt Longmire. Returning to duty after the death of his wife, Walt is drawn into a murder investigation. **7.40** NCIS. A blind man unwittingly photographs evidence of a murder, leading Jethro and the team to the corpse of a petty officer who was stabbed with a knife left at the scene. (R) **8.35** NCIS. Gibbs is made acting director while Jenny is attending an overseas conference, but decides to ignore his duties and instead investigate the murder of a man found dead in a taxi. (R) **9.25** 5 News Weekend. **10.00** Live International Boxing. Kid Galahad v Sergio Prado, plus the two remaining quarter-finals in the light-heavyweight Maxi Nutrition Knockout tournament, all from Ponds Forge in Sheffield. **12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** The Drive-By Slayers: Born to Kill? (R) **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **4.50** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three **7.00** Great TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who **8.20** Top Gear: Burma Special **9.25** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider – The Cradle of Life (2003) **11.10** Family Guy **BBC Four** **7.00** David Attenborough's First Life **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Inspector De Luca **10.50** The Genius of David Bowie **11.50** Lou Reed Remembered **ITV2** **3.25** Britain's Got More Talent: Singers & Dancers **4.25** Film: Babe: Pig in the City (1998) **6.15** Film: About a Boy (2002) **8.15** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday (2007) **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.50** Crazy Beaches **11.20** Educating Joey Essex **ITV3** **3.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Endeavour **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Endeavour **11.20** A Touch of Frost **ITV4** **3.15** Film: The Far Country (1954) **5.15** Film: The Battle of Midway (1976) **7.55** Hornblower. Conclusion of the seafaring adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd. Last in the series. **10.00** Film: Carlito's Way (1993) **E4** **4.00** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** 2 Broke Girls **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Lake Placid (1999) **10.40** Rude Tube **11.45** The Big Bang Theory **Film4** **2.55** Carry On Behind (1975) **4.40** Escape to Victory (1981) **7.00** Lemnys Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events (2004) **9.00** Priest (2011) **10.45** Alien 3 (1992)

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CHOICE



Prince Harry

Harry's South Pole Heroes

ITV, 8pm
Prince Harry and his band of heroes are certainly braver than us – in fact watching him and the wounded servicemen and women from the comfort of our armchair with a warm cup of coffee leaves us suitably ashamed of ourselves. In this episode, the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013 gets under way, and the teams prepare to ski for nine hours a day, hauling 80 kilos of kit in temperatures as low as -40C. But no amount of training could have prepared them for the frostbite, sores and altitude sickness.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News. **1.15** The Sport Relief Games Show. **3.15** Alex Against the Rock. **3.45** Deadly on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.15** Regional Programme. **4.45** Songs of Praise. **5.20** Pointless Celebrities. (R)

6.05 **Blandings**, Connie plays matchmaker.

6.35 **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.

7.00 **Countryfile**, Ellie Harrison heads to the beaches of Norfolk, which suffered its biggest storm surge in 60 years in December. She also drops in at the RSPB's reserve in Snettisham. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow**, Fiona Bruce and the team visit Exeter Cathedral, where items include a table apparently used by Bonnie Prince Charlie and artwork painted by Edward VII as a child.

9.00 **The Musketeers**, The quartet escort the queen to a forest pool renowned for its powers of fertility – but when an assassin strikes they escape to a convent, where Aramis meets a face from the past.

10.00 **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 **Match of the Day 2**, Tottenham Hotspur v Southampton.

11.25 **Film: Butterfly on a Wheel**, (2007) Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan.

12.55 **Weather**. **1.00** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 **Film: Angels One Five**, (1953) **7.35** **Mountain**, (R) **8.35** **Countryfile**, (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **9.30** **Gardeners' World**, (R) **10.00** **Saturday Kitchen** Best Bites. **11.30** **James Martin: Home Comforts**, (R) **12.15** **Michel Roux's Service**, (R) **1.15** **Michel Roux's Service**, (R) **2.15** **Ex-S**, **2.45** **Film: I Know Where I'm Going!** (1945) **4.15** **Flog It!** (R) **5.00** **Collectables**, (R)

6.00 **The Hairy Bikers: Restoration Road Trip**, Si King and Dave Myers help rebuild an early traction engine before learning how it revolutionised farming, and restore a rare barge once used to transport coal on Britain's canals. (R)

7.00 **Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom**, The team splits up to search for tigers. Last in the series. (R)

8.00 **Lambing Live: Farming Families**, New series. Kate Humble and Adam Henson revisit people featured in previous series.

9.00 **Louis Theroux's LA Stories: City of Dogs**, New series. Different aspects of Los Angeles, beginning with the city's neglected and feral dogs.

10.00 **Mock the Week Looks Back at Royals**, Another selection of material from the show's archives. (R)

10.30 **Line of Duty**, Fleming remains determined to prove Denton had a role in the ambush. Last in the series. (R)

11.30 **Film: London River**, (2009) Drama, with Brenda Blethyn.

12.55 **Sign Zone: Countryfile**, (R) **1.50** **Holby City**, (R) **2.50** **Silk**, (R) **3.50** **This Is BBC Two**.

ITV

6.00 **CITV: Dino Dan**, **6.10** **Dino Dan**, (R) **6.25** **Met Hatter**, (R) **6.45** **Animals**, (R) **6.55** **Animals**, (R) **7.00** **Animals**, (R) **7.10** **Om Nom Stories**, (R) **7.15** **Om Nom Stories**, (R) **7.20** **Sooty**, (R) **7.30** **Scrambled**, **9.25** **ITV News**, **9.30** **Murder**, She Wrote. (R) **10.30** **Dickinson's Real Deal**, (R) **11.25** **ITV News**; Weather. **11.35** **The Unforgettable Dudley Moore**, (R) **12.05** **Agatha Christie's Marple**, (R) **2.00** **The Crocodile Hunter Diaries**, (R) **2.25** **All Star Family Fortunes**, (R) **3.10** **River Monsters**, (R) **4.15** **Film: The Spy Who Loved Me**, (1977)

6.35 **Regional Programme**; Weather.

6.45 **ITV News**; Weather.

7.00 **Catchphrase**, Stephen Mulhern hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clips, before one of them plays to win £50,000.

8.00 **Harry's South Pole Heroes**, Part two of two. Prince Harry embarks on his expedition in the Antarctic with four injured British soldiers as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge.

9.00 **Mr Selfridge**, Harry is desperate to clear his name. Last in the series.

10.00 **ITV News at Ten**; Weather.

10.15 **You Saw Them Here First**, With Patsy Kensit, Mark Benton, David Threlfall, Tony Robinson and Kimberley Walsh. (R)

11.15 **Premiership Rugby Union**, **12.15** **The Story**, **2.15** **The Jeremy Kyle Show**, (R) **3.45** **ITV News**; Weather.

5.05 **The Jeremy Kyle Show**, (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 **The Hoobs**, (R) **6.35** **The Hoobs**, (R) **7.00** **Freemants on 4**, **7.30** **Challenge Wanka Triathlon**, **8.00** **Everybody Loves Raymond**, (R) **8.30** **Frasier**, (R) **9.00** **Frasier**, (R) **9.30** **Sunday Brunch**, **12.35** **Secret Eaters**, (R) **1.35** **The Big Bang Theory**, (R) **2.05** **The Big Bang Theory**, (R) **2.35** **How I Met Your Mother**, **3.05** **How I Met Your Mother**, **3.35** **The Simpsons**, (R) **4.05** **The Simpsons**, (R) **4.35** **Deal or No Deal**, **5.40** **Channel 4 News**.

6.10 **Film: Rio**, (2011) Premiere. A domesticated bird gets lost in Rio de Janeiro, and has to learn to fly to get back to his owner. Animated comedy, with the voices of Jesse Eisenberg and Anne Hathaway.

8.00 **The Million Pound Necklace: Inside Boodles**, Documentary following exclusive jewellers Boodles, as they launch their most expensive collection yet, created from a set of rare Colombian emeralds.

9.00 **Film: The Tourist**, (2010) A woman tries to trick the police into thinking a tourist is her criminal lover with his appearance surgically changed. Romantic thriller, with Johnny Depp and Angelina Jolie.

10.55 **Film: Dogma**, (1999) A lapsed Catholic must stop two fallen angels returning to Heaven or it will mean the end of the world. Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon, Ben Affleck and Linda Fiorentino.

1.20 **The Good Wife**, (R) **2.05** **The Hotel**, (R) **3.00** **Secret Removers**, A husband arranges a surprise for his wife. (R) **4.00** **SuperScrimpers**, (R) **4.55** **Deal or No Deal**, (R) **5.50** **River Cottage Bites**, (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 **Milkshake!**, Peppa Pig. **6.05** **Roary the Racing Car**, (R) **6.15** **Fill and the Flowerbuds**, (R) **6.25** **Bubble Guppies**, (R) **6.35** **The Mr Men Show**, (R) **6.50** **Chloe's Closet**, (R) **7.00** **Milkshake! Pop Box**, (R) **7.05** **Roobarb and Custard Too**, (R) **7.10** **Bananas in Pajamas**, (R) **7.25** **Make Way for Noddy**, (R) **7.40** **City of Friends**, (R) **7.50** **Mio Mao**, (R) **7.55** **Little Princess**, (R) **8.10** **Milkshake! Monkey**, (R) **8.15** **The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky**, (R) **8.25** **Angelina Ballerina**, (R) **8.40** **Rupert Bear**, (R) **8.50** **Toby's Travelling Circus**, (R) **9.00** **Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**, (R) **9.15** **Jelly Jam**, (R) **9.30** **LazyTown**, (R) **10.00** **Power Rangers Super Samurai**, (R) **10.35** **Access**, **10.50** **Film: Arthur and the Invisibles**, (2006) **12.30** **Film: Hoodwinked**, (2005) **2.05** **Film: Zoom**, (2006) **3.50** **Film: The Witches**, (1990) **5.35** **5 News Weekend**, **5.40** **Film: The Great Escape**, (1963)

9.00 **The First Great Escape**, Documentary examining an escape by British officers from the Holzminden POW camp in July 1918 that inspired the famous breakout from Stalag Luft III in March 1944.

10.00 **The Great Escape Revealed**, The true story of the famous POW breakout.

11.00 **Film: A Bridge Too Far**, (1977) Fact-based drama recreating a Second World War campaign to capture a series of strategically important bridges. Starring Dirk Bogarde.

2.25 **SuperCasino**, **3.10** **Dangerous Drivers' School**, (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS**, (R) **4.25** **Make It Big**, (R) **4.50** **The Funky Valley Show**, (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm**, (R) **5.10** **Hana's Helpline**, (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm**.

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 **The Voice UK** **8.55** **The Voice UK Results** **9.30** **Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00** **Family Guy** **10.45** **Bluestone** **42** **11.15** **American Dad!**

BBC Four
7.00 **Magnificent Machines: The Golden Age of the British Sports Car** **8.00** **Mark Lawson talks to Joanna Trollope** **9.00** **Martin Amis: England** **10.00** **Some Football Managers with Jokes** **10.30** **Film: You Will Be My Son** (2011)

ITV2
2.15 **Film: Honey** (2003) **4.10** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **5.40** **Film: The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor** (2008) **7.50** **Film: Whip It** (2009) **10.50** **The Only Way Is Essex** **10.50** **Party Wreck Around the World** **11.15** **The Big Reunion** 2014

ITV3
3.40 **Rosemary & Thyme** **4.45** **A Touch of Frost** **7.00** **Film: Mamma Mia!** (2008) Musical comedy, starring Meryl Streep. **11.15** **Cracker**

ITV4
3.05 **Film: Kelly's Heroes** (1970) **6.00** **Storage Wars** **8.00** **Premiership Rugby Union** **9.00** **Film: Get Carter** (1971) **11.20** **Hell on Wheels**

E4
3.30 **The Tomorrow People** **4.30** **Troy: Best Bits** **5.35** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.05** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Dr Dolittle** (1998) **9.40** **The Big Bang Theory** **10.10** **How I Met Your Mother** **10.40** **My Mad Fat Diary** **11.45** **Rules of Engagement**

Film4
2.35 **Only You** (1994) **4.45** **27 Dresses** (2008) **6.55** **The Truman Show** (1998) **9.10** **This Is England** (2006) **11.05** **Silent House** (2011)

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A recent Radio 4 broadcast explored the view of 'Your whole life is lived through your teeth'. The concept for many is true – though few comprehend how teeth impact our day-to-day lives, and in particular, the issues that arise when they begin to fail. In its conclusion, the broadcast acknowledged the sometime catastrophic effects of tooth trouble on diet, lifestyle and self-worth. The effervescent Ann Skitt recently decided to ditch her old, troublesome dentures when her teeth became an embarrassment and get a brand new smile. Is this the right time for you to do the same?

Ann's smile
puts her in top gear

ANN Skitt retrieves her bike from the garage, deftly fixes a slipped chain, and is ready "to go anywhere."

By her own confession it's an antique with a capacious, black leather-cloth saddlebag (no longer manufactured) and just three Sturmey-Archer gears. For nearly 20 years it's been a faithful companion and her primary source of transport.

Her enthusiasm to get on the saddle belies her years. "I don't drive, but cycle everywhere I can," she says.

A young-at-heart 74-year-old, she oozes charisma and charm, still goes to the gym "when she needs to shed a few pounds" and is the life and soul of the party at her local Young At Heart Club where she is a volunteer worker.

"I retired at 60, but I always have to be doing something. The club has some elderly people who never really see anyone from week to week and I love helping. We do lunches and have a game of bingo and a laugh," she adds.

She admits to constantly making choices to live life to the limit and indulging herself whenever she

fancies a new look as a popular hairdressers' model at Wolverhampton's award-winning Ultimate Hairdressing salon.

"I love meeting the students and they treat me lovely," she says.

It's hard to imagine that his retired assembly worker, who completed 45 years' service at Willenhall's famous Josiah Parkes & Sons lock manufacturers, could ever be knocked back. But failing teeth "became an embarrassment," she recalls.

Plucked up the courage

"My remaining bottom teeth were terribly discoloured and my partial lower denture was unstable. You could never eat anything like nuts and I was always so conscious of the way they looked.

"If I cooked lamb chops or a steak I'd struggle to eat it – it would take me ages, but I can eat anything now," she says with a smile.

Ann called time on her long-standing dental problems after reading an article in her local newspaper about Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) and his work as principal at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

"I had a couple of articles and kept them for nearly a year before I plucked up courage to see Steve. I knew

Is suction the new solution?

Stabilisation problems with denture wearers are common, especially with bottom teeth. They can become progressively uncomfortable as gums shrink with age, creating sore spots and compromising diet.

A cutting-edge development which could provide a solution with some patients are suction dentures.

These prosthetics use tiny, valve-operated diaphragms inserted into the dentures and create a stabilising vacuum against the gums. The technology offers another choice for patients, who perhaps don't require denture stabilisation through implants, or are unsuitable for the procedure.

"We recognise this particular prosthesis can offer another useful tool in our palette of options, but clinical technology is advancing all the time and the equipment we have at the Denture Clinic can deliver a precise fit for quality, traditional dentures and sometimes that's all what's required to make the bite functional and teeth secure."

exactly what I wanted and was happy to put up with a bit of discomfort to get there," she says.

With four implants in her upper and four in the lower jaw to secure implant-retained over-dentures, Ann now has a perfect smile and functional teeth.

"I love my teeth and they have given me so much more confidence. You don't realise how having bad teeth affect until you have treatment like this and you get the confidence back. The whole shape of my mouth has changed."

Her teeth were hand-crated on the premises at the Denture Clinic and implant surgery was carried out by Jonathon Pugh BDS MSc (Implant Dentistry), principal of Total Implant Solutions in Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

Steven says: "Ann's particular choice was to go down the implant-retained denture route which ensures total stabilisation and it works brilliantly for her.

"But implants are not necessarily for everyone and quality, traditional dentures can often be an excellent option. We also do suction dentures, where tiny valve operated diaphragms are fitted into the prosthesis and create a vacuum effect against the gums."

Adds Ann: "Both Steve and Jon were lovely with me. I've told all my friends they need to see them too."

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Film Choices

MONDAY

The Man Behind the Gun, Channel 4, 1pm
A soldier poses as a schoolteacher on a mission to root out a band of insurrectionists who are plotting to break away from the Union and reintroduce slavery. Before long, he starts to fall for a fellow teacher, but suspects his rival for her affection may be involved with the militants. Western, starring Randolph Scott. (1953)

TUESDAY

Back to You and Me, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A doctor returns home after many years for a school reunion and tries to rebuild her relationship with her estranged mother, whom she has not seen since her father's death. The experience proves both enlightening and surprising, as she discovers her childhood sweetheart is now a widower, and a dark secret is revealed. Drama, starring Lisa Hartman Black, Dale Midkiff and Rue McClanahan. (2005)

WEDNESDAY

Murder on the 13th Floor, Channel 5, 3.20pm
A woman discovers her husband is having an affair with their live-in nanny and plans revenge. The childminder discovers she and the couple's son have been locked in their 13th-floor apartment along with two hitmen hired to kill her. Thriller, starring Tessa Thompson. (2012)



Scent of a Woman, Friday, ITV, 10.35pm

Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Channel 4, 12am

Two Americans on a break in Spain encounter a seductive painter, who invites them to spend time with him at his home in Oviedo. Though the more timid of the pair is initially reluctant, her free-spirited friend persuades her to come along, resulting in a series of romantic encounters and an explosive experience with the artist's ex-wife. Woody Allen's comedy, with Scarlett Johansson and Rebecca Hall. (2008)

THURSDAY

My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm
Kate works in a home for disadvantaged children and longs for kids of her own, but is unable to conceive. When her best friend is murdered, Kate adopts her two youngsters, but it is not long before those around her question whether she has a hand in their mother's death to gain the family she always wanted. Drama, starring Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. (2007)

FRIDAY

Scent of a Woman, ITV, 10.35pm
A blind, hard-drinking war veteran pays a timid college student to accompany him on a weekend break in the big city, where he plans to make the most of life. However, the youngster is shocked to learn that his new friend plans to kill himself. Comedy drama, starring an Oscar-winning Al Pacino. (1992)

HC

Pick of the Week

New series will prove to be far from child's play

Praise be – the Reverend Adam Smallbone is back at last. Two years is a long time between sermons – here's hoping TV's best-loved vicar has spent that time away from our screens coming up with inspiring new subjects and honing his delivery.

Let's face it, his parish could use a few more devotees – inner-city London was always going to be a tough gig, and despite his best efforts, Adam hasn't really managed to win over the locals, unless you count unstable Mick, alcoholic lost soul Colin and lovesick Adoha.

They're all back for this third series, which Tom Hollander, who co-created the sitcom with writer James Wood, says was a dream to make.

"I found it very comforting and reassuring and it's very lovely to do something that you have done before which people have enjoyed," he remarks. "There was none of the stress you normally have playing a new part where you go, 'Oh, I wonder if it works if I do this or if I

do that' whereas, because we've done two series there's a relaxation of putting on a, you know, favourite old cardigan or something."

Also back is Olivia Colman. She may have become Britain's premier TV actress since the last run of Rev was aired, thanks to performances in Broadchurch, Flun, Accused and The Thirteenth Tale, but she found time in her hectic diary for this.

"There's something comforting about knowing we're back because people liked it, so we're doing something right," she says. "It's a shame you have to do anything on the first day. It'd be nice if it was a write-off because you're just chatting and catching up. It's lovely."

There's about to be a new addition to the couple's lives when we meet him again – Alex gives birth to their long-awaited first child, a girl, in dramatic circumstances.

"The baby belongs to the Parish suddenly," explains Colman. "So, everyone who is knocking on the door anyway is now also knocking

on the door to look after the baby, which is very irritating to Alex."

There's also little time for paternity leave, because Adam's parish duties continue to weigh heavy on him. In the first episode, he joins forces with an Imam in an attempt to improve the local community, but is left wondering if his new colleague has a hidden agenda.

Also giving poor Adam a headache are the new Area Dean and Diocesan secretary who seem to have big but destructive plans for St Saviour's.

Kayvan Novak, Joanna Scanlan and Vicki Pepperdine guest star as the newcomers, and the general consensus of opinion from Hollander and Colman is that they're "brilliant".

Colman perhaps sums up Rev's appeal best when she describes it as: "well-written, beautiful and the people are lovable and flawed. It's got a soft underbelly and a humility which is easy to love."

And long may that continue.



Olivia Colman and Tom Hollander star in Rev, Monday, BBC2, 10pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

The Widower
ITV, 9pm

Watching a drama based on a true story can be an odd experience. Chances are you already know what the outcome is, so where does the tension come from? Thankfully, the screenplay for this three-parter was penned by Bafta-winner Jeff Pope, who's an expert at turning real cases into gripping drama by making viewers wonder how characters will get out of certain situations – or when they're going to be caught. In this second episode, Malcolm Webster is now settled back in Scotland with his second wife Felicity and their son. He's still plotting to murder her, and after his first scheme is thwarted, comes up with a new plan...

My Spiral into Debt Hell
Channel 5, 9pm

It seems everywhere you turn these days a payday loan company is trying to flog you their services with another gimmicky advert. However, after watching this powerful documentary, even if you were slightly tempted before, you'll think again. Household debt is at record levels and this programme meets people who have suffered financial disaster – and it makes for shocking viewing. Among them is Debra from County Durham who thought it would be simple enough to borrow £500 for a computer – the reality was that her loan would turn into a 10-year nightmare and end up costing her £88,000 as well as her home. Plus, a city boy who's paying the price for his lavish lifestyle, and a man who blames his bank for his £42,000 debt.

TUESDAY

The Missing
Channel 4, 10pm

It's a frightening statistic, but every two minutes, someone in Britain goes missing. Fortunately, the majority are found again within 48 hours, but 2,000 a year simply vanish, leaving a host of unanswered questions behind. This moving documentary meets three families who have had to deal with the disappearance of a loved one – a brother, a husband, and a mother. In all three cases, it was completely out-of-character for the missing person to have simply left without contacting anyone, and the police are as baffled as everyone else. The programme finds that the friends and relatives often feel as if they are in limbo, while some have gone to extraordinary lengths to try to bring the missing person home again.

WEDNESDAY

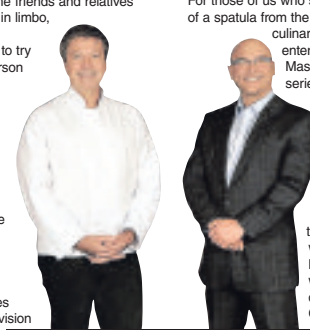
Big Star's Little Star
ITV, 8pm

Don't ever work with children or animals – that's the golden rule in telly, they say, as no-one likes unpredictability. But the leading lights behind this superb series understand that actually, it's the little ones who make the best television – because of their

unpredictability. For the producers behind this game show, the youth are comedy gold, as Stephen Mulhern grills them about their celebrity parents and hopes they will spill their deepest secrets. First up, are sporting stars (and they are good sports for putting themselves through this) 2003 Rugby World Cup winner Ben Cohen, 2000 Olympic champion in the heptathlon Denise Lewis and footballer Neil 'Razor' Ruddock. A few laughs at the celebs' expense all in the name of charity never hurt anyone...

MasterChef
BBC1, 9pm

For those of us who struggle to recognise one end of a spatula from the other, the Beeb's signature culinary effort has kept us entertained for years. But now that MasterChef has hit its tenth series, we're left with little choice but to sit up and learn a thing or two, as John Torode and Gregg Wallace return with a new batch of amateur cooks keen to prove their worth. The first six hopefuls take on a new challenge as they prepare their Calling Card, a dish which showcases their talent. But the group are soon whittled down, and the decision lies with John and Gregg as to who will reach the quarter-final.



Masterchef, Wednesday, BBC1, 9pm

THURSDAY

Salting the Battlefield
BBC2, 9pm

Ooh, BBC2, you're spoiling us! Last week viewers were treated to Turks & Caicos, the eagerly awaited second part of David Hare's trilogy of dramas about British agent Johnny Worricker. Hats off to the casting genius who teamed up Bill Nighy and Christopher Walken for that one. Now here's the final instalment of Worricker's story although, disappointingly, it's minus the wonderful Walken. This time, Worricker and Margaret Tyrrell are on the run across Europe, with MI5 snapping at their heels. Neither of them had expected life in exile to be so difficult, so Worricker makes a decision that will change his life forever – it's time to confront the all-powerful Prime Minister, Alec Beasley. Only one man can win their battle of wits – but which one?

FRIDAY

A Very British Renaissance
BBC2, 9.30pm

If the latest edition of this documentary is anything to go by, Elizabethan England was an exciting place to be. The country had cut its ties with Catholic Europe, and was now fervently Protestant – at least on the surface. Poets were writing in codes, while art and architecture conveyed secret meanings via mysterious symbols. Dazzling works were also created by Elizabethans who suddenly felt confident thanks to their nation's standing in the world. Among the treasures showcased here by presenter James Fox are exquisite miniatures painted by Nicholas Hilliard, and the earliest surviving example of a globe, created by Emery Molyneux.

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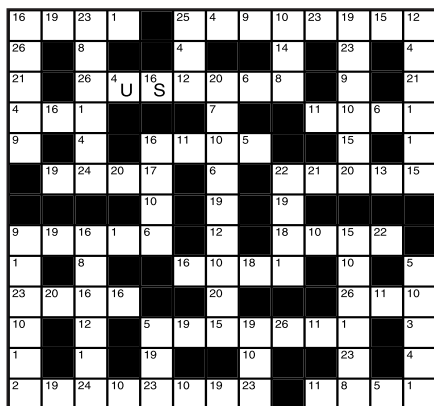
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Brain Gym

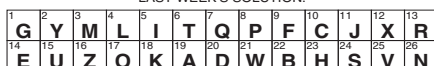
No.265

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:



Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

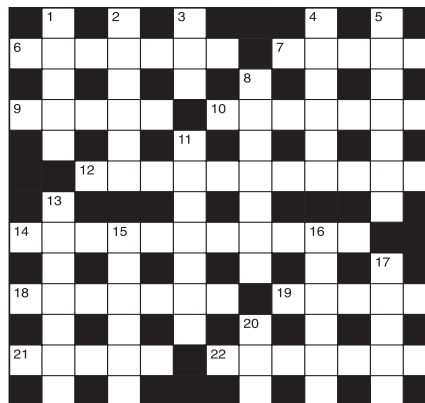
Cryptic Clues:

Across

6. He decides to make a rarebit (7)
7. Soft melodies for couples (5)
9. Appears to make sound joints (5)
10. He's nice and foreign (7)
12. Intelligence in the making (11)
14. It won't keep you fully occupied (4,3)
18. One needs a couple of rings to get this number (7)
19. Turner writes articles in French and English (5)
21. Separate verse form (5)
22. His initial confusion was amusing (7)

Down

1. In a small way you'll find me prepared to fight (5)
2. He may fly from Marian (6)
3. Carve a name, we hear (3)
4. Edible wood? (6)
5. Don't stop, although a person's upset (5,2)
8. My niche, a cleft in a cliff? (7)
11. A fir-cone, perhaps, seen in the wood (7)
13. Greetings that affect us least (7)
15. I tried a more orderly arrangement (6)
16. A speaker who is skilled at splitting alternatives (6)
17. What he does is appropriate (5)
20. Fit for a little physical training (3)



Quick Clues:

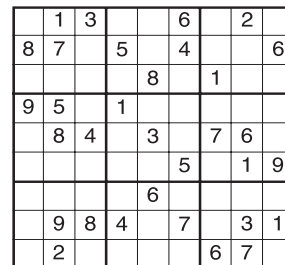
Across

6. Watery (7)
7. Narrative (5)
9. Devoutness (5)
10. Advent (7)
12. Incitement (11)
14. Disbelief (11)
16. Cleanness (7)
19. Amusing (5)
21. Confuse (5)
22. Aid (7)

Down

1. Fit out (5)
2. Improved (6)
3. Owing (3)
4. Rigorous (6)
5. Producer (7)
8. Small thorn (7)
11. Greed (7)
13. Contain (7)
15. Seldom (6)
16. Three times (6)
17. Mock (5)
20. Shed (3)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

7	6	3	1	9	8	2	5	4
4	9	2	3	6	5	1	7	8
8	5	1	2	4	7	6	3	9
5	4	8	9	7	6	3	2	1
9	1	6	5	3	2	8	4	7
3	2	7	4	8	1	5	9	6
1	3	9	8	2	4	7	6	5
6	8	4	7	5	3	9	1	2
2	7	5	8	1	9	4	6	3

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Detonation; 7 Aroma; 8 Toddler; 10 Long shot; 11 Harp; 13 Recipe; 15 Damself; 17 Aces; 18 Reserved; 21 Earnest; 22 Dense; 23 By and large. Down: 1 Drown; 2 Transact; 3 Notion; 4 To-do; 5 Orleans; 6 Tailor made; 9 Rope ladder; 12 Lavender; 14 Clearly; 16 Dental; 19 Venue; 20 Lean. QUICK - Across: 1 Particular; 7 Aired; 8 Special; 10 Dismayed; 11 Ring; 13 Employ; 15 Street; 17 Drop; 18 Well-do; 21 Diploma; 22 Avers; 23 Prospectus. Down: 1 Parts; 2 Radiator; 3 Instep; 4 Used; 5 Asinine; 6 Hard-headed; 9 Lighthouse; 12 Stalwart; 14 Prosper; 16 Relate; 19 Omens; 20 Toss.



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Cardiff & Bath

Murder Mystery Weekend 26 Apr, 7 Jun, 26 Jul, 20 Sep 2 days £79.95

Mersey Cruise

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LEGOLAND & LONDON 3 May, 21 Jun 2 days £99.95	LONDON FREEDOM WEEKEND 29 Mar, 12 Apr 2 days £79.95	SETTLE-CARLISLE RAILWAY & WORTH 7 Jun, 12 Jul 2 days £99.95
EXETER & TORQUAY 29 Mar 26 Apr 2 days £59.95	DISNEYLAND PARIS various dates 4/5 days £219.95	STONEHENGE & WIMBORNE 2, 23 Mar 4 days £149.95

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Pontins Brean Sands	£79.95

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Detached five-bedroom house with good views



A DETACHED five-bedroomed home in Harborne Road, Warley Woods, is for sale through Derek Spires Estate Agents at £440,000.

With gas central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall, lounge. There is a conservatory with French doors to the garden, dining room and French doors to the conservatory, pantry, cloakroom and kitchen/breakfast room incorporating a four-burner gas hob with extractor hood over and integrated oven and ceramic floor tiling. There is also a lobby, integral side garage to the ground floor.

Upstairs is an en suite master bedroom with walk-in wardrobe, bedroom two which has extensive views, three further bedrooms and a bathroom with a white suite including a Jacuzzi panelled bath.

Contact Derek Spires agents on 0121420 4646 or visit the www.derekspiresandco.com website.



An impressive home in West Bromwich

AN IMPRESSIVE three-storey six-bedroomed detached property in Heath Lane, West Bromwich, is for sale through Bartrams at £299,950.

With central heating and majority double glazing, it has a porch, entrance hall, two reception rooms, conservatory, kitchen, walk-in pantry, utility, and guest bathroom.

There is a first-floor landing with WC and bathroom and three bedrooms, second floor with bathroom/wetroom and three bedrooms. There is a large rear garden with a paved patio, lawn, shed, and access to front with off-road parking for three to four cars and a garage. Contact Bartrams on 0121 601 9370 or visit the www.bartrams.com website.



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<p>Powell Avenue</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Mid terraced house* Living room* Kitchen/Dining room* Two bedrooms* Garage in nearby blockEPC = D <p>Offers in the region of £124,950</p>	<p>Quinton Road West</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Semi detached house* Recently modernised* Re-fitted kitchen/dining room* Re-fitted bathroom* Three bedroomsEPC = C <p>Offers in the region of £134,950</p>	<p>Oldacre Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Terraced House* Through living room comprising living and dining area* Bathroom and separate wc* Three bedrooms* Rear gardenEPC = C <p>Offers in the region of £109,950</p>	<p>Apsley Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Semi-detached house* Good sized plot* Garage* Three bedrooms* Two reception rooms* No chainEPC = tbc <p>Offers in the region of £159,950</p>	<p>Plot 3 Site of 46 George Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Link detached bungalow* Two parking spaces* Two bedrooms* L Shaped lounge/dining area* Quality fitted kitchen with host of appliances* Luxury bathroom with shower over bath* Gas boiler heating radiators* EPC = C <p>£185,000</p>	<p>Land Fronting Yardley Street</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Residential Development Site* Extending to (0.16 hectares) (0.39 acres)* Planning permission for 4 detached houses <p>Offers in the region of £200,000</p>	<p>69, 69A & 69B Long Lane & 1 Parade Buildings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Investment for sale* Two lock-up shops* Two first floor flats* Total rental income £13,900 pa* Full details contact agents 0121 422 4011 (ref MS)EPC Ratings: 69 (E), 69A (D), 69B (D), 1 Parade Buildings (C) <p>Offers in the region of £155,000</p>
<p>324 Hagley Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 2 double bedroom House* FANTASTIC LOCATION!* Ideal for nearby popular Schools* 2 reception rooms (both with new carpets)* Spacious kitchen with some appliances* GCH & DG to most windows* Available now!* EPC=D <p>Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>5 Mill Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Semi-detached house* 2 bedrooms (1 with wardrobes)* Fitted kitchen with some appliances* Bathroom with shower over bath* DG to most windows & Gas CH* EPC=D* MUST VIEW!* Available 1st April <p>Monthly rent of £525+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>101 Olive Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Semi detached house* Two Bedrooms* Nice living room with sliding doors to garden* Kitchen with oven, hob, hood and fridge* Modern boiler* Gas CH & joinery* DGW* Off road parking & attractive garden with shed* EPC = D <p>Monthly rent of £535+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>33 Spinners End Drive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Ground floor flat* REDUCED RENT* Double bedroom with fitted wardrobe* Kitchen with host of appliances* White bathroom suite with shower* Convenient location* Modern neutral finish* Nice carpets, electric heating & DGW* Allocated car space* EPC=D <p>Monthly rent of £350+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>70 Tennial Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* 3 bedroom semi-detached house* Popular location in Harborne* modern fitted kitchen with oven & hob* Stylish bathroom with separate shower cubicle* UPVC DGW & Gas CH* Off road car-parking & garden* Available NOW!* MUST VIEW!* EPC=D <p>Monthly rent of £775+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>53 Wattis Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Lovely 2 bedroom part-furnished house* Both bedrooms are double* Great location for commuting into City* Two reception rooms* Kitchen with new cooker* Bathroom with shower* GCH & DGW* Garden* EPC=D <p>Monthly rent of £550+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>	<p>16 Woodland Road</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Traditional 3 bedroom house* Neutral finish/decor* 2 Living rooms* Bathroom with shower* UPVC DG windows & Gas CH* Location convenient for nearby schools* EPC=E <p>Monthly rent of £650+ application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1st tenant and £100 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required 6 weeks rent.</p>

Attractively presented two-bedroomed home



SET on the Fibblersley and Willenhall border, this modern two-bedroomed semi-detached home in Bloom Close, Willenhall lies in a cul-de-sac location on a development by Alexander Homes. It is for sale through Connells at £105,000.

It has an entrance hall with stairs to the landing, ground-floor WC, lounge, conservatory, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. There are pleasant gardens and off-road parking.

For further information contact



Glorious gardens are a feature at this cottage



A CAPTIVATING detached cottage residence and a prominent local landmark in Sandy Lane, Brewwood, stands on an impressive plot close to the exclusive village centre.

It is for sale through Bartlams at £575,000.

There is a sitting room with an inglenook fireplace and wall and ceiling beams, a rear lobby with a cloakroom and cellar/utility, a large lounge area with an Adam-style fireplace and large archways leading to further seating and music room areas, a breakfast kitchen with cream units and wood-effect working surfaces. There is also a formal dining room with a ceiling beam and a fireplace. Upstairs are six bedrooms – three interlink – and two bathrooms. Extensive private gardens include a walled courtyard with a pool.

For further information contact Bartlams on 01902 762900.



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NEW
HALESOWEN, Bromsgrove Road£875 pcm - Fees
Located in the desirable area of Bromley. This unfurnished semi detached house features gas central heating, modern and spacious lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, loft space, front & rear gardens, garage, fantastic views. Viewing strongly recommended. EPC: E



HALESOWEN, Newton Court£750 pcm - Fees
A recently converted 3 bedroom 1st floor apartment finished to an extremely high standard and centrally located with commuter links to Halesowen and Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, both with fitted wardrobes, 2 bathrooms, 1 single bedroom, secondary glazing throughout. Allocated parking. Viewings recommended. EPC: C



BRIERLEY HILL, Golden Cross Way£750 pcm - Fees
A furnished detached house close to Briery Hill Town Centre. Featuring a downstairs w.c., living/dining room, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, master bedroom with en suite shower room, house bathroom. Benefits also include gas central heating, front and rear gardens, garage. Convenient location for Merry Hill. Inspection strongly recommended. EPC: C



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Dorothy Adams Close£675 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished modern three storey townhouse, close to shops and rail links, briefly comprising of: three bedrooms, downstairs wc, lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, master bedroom with en-suite and dressing area, house bathroom with shower, garage and driveway, rear garden. Available immediately. EPC: C



NEW
HALESOWEN, Melbourne Road£650 pcm - Fees
A wonderfully presented and terrace property close to Halesowen Town Centre and Halesowen College. This 3 bedroom property features 2 reception rooms, fitted kitchen with wooden work surfaces, downstairs bathroom with separate shower, double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden, and on road parking. Viewing highly recommended to appreciate property. EPC: B/C



BIRMINGHAM, City Heights£650 pcm - Fees
A furnished 2nd floor apartment in the centre of Birmingham. Featuring 2 double bedrooms, open plan lounge/kitchen, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, parking space, close to Snow Hill Train Station and walking distance to the city centre. Not to be missed. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Holt Road £625 pcm - Fees
2 MONTHS RENT HALF PRICE! An immaculately presented mid terraced property in a convenient location for shops, buses and motorway links. The property features a homely lounge, dining room, luxury refitted shower room, 2 double bedrooms, and 2 single loft rooms, gas central heating, double glazing, small rear courtyard garden, on road parking. EPC: D



NEW PRICE
HALESOWEN, Holt Road £575 pcm - Fees
A well presented mid terrace property close to local shops. This house features 3 bedrooms, spacious lounge, fitted kitchen with white goods, bathroom with shower, double glazing, gas central heating, front & rear gardens, garage with driveway. Available 1/4/13. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, Victoria Road£575 pcm - Fees
A large unfurnished end terrace house, close to local shops and transport links, briefly featuring 4 bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, downstairs wc & bathroom with Shower, gas central heating, driveway parking. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, The Forge £550 pcm - Fees
Part furnished to suit. A modern 2 bedroom semi detached property situated in a quiet cul de sac and within walking distance to Cradley Heath Train Station, bus links and shops. Featuring a great living room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, private rear garden, driveway, gas central heating. EPC: C



ROWLEY REGIS, Dudley Road£550 pcm - Fees
A fantastic opportunity to rent this stunning cottage which has many features. Featuring 2 good size bedrooms, 2 spacious lounges, modern kitchen with appliances, conservatory, house bathroom with shower, mature rear garden, parking available, a must see property! EPC: D



HALESOWEN, The Infield £550 pcm - Fees
Stunning and modern on a well sought after new estate. This top floor apartment features 2 bedrooms, master with fitted wardrobes, large lounge with real dark wood flooring, superb high spec kitchen with built-in fridge/freezer and washer/dryer, bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing, allocated parking. Not to be missed. EPC: C



HALESOWEN, Cavalier Drive£525 pcm - Fees
Located within walking distance of central Halesowen. This modern unfurnished 3rd floor apartment, briefly comprising of: spacious living room with a door leading to your own balcony, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, communal gardens, allocated parking space. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, Albany Court£475 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished ground floor flat in a sought after location. Featuring 2 large double bedrooms, large living room, fitted kitchen, bathroom with shower. Other benefits include electric storage heating, communal gardens, parking. Available 12/04/14. EPC: B/C



BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive£475 pcm - Fees
This unfurnished end terrace property is in close proximity to both Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Briery Hill. The House comprises of 1 double bedroom with fitted wardrobes and 1 single bedroom, house bathroom with shower, nice sized lounge, fitted kitchen, allocated parking, small front garden. EPC: C



NEW
CRADLEY HEATH, Unitt Drive£450 pcm - Fees
Located in a quiet and popular residential area, ideal for walking into Cradley Heath and local train station. This apartment on the top floor features 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, large lounge and feature fireplace, house bathroom with shower, modern kitchen with washer/dryer. EPC: C



NEW PRICE
CRADLEY HEATH, Victoria Gardens£425 pcm - Fees
A fantastic 1 bedroom 1st floor apartment which has just been fully refurbished to a high standard. Large dual aspect lounge, fully fitted kitchen with appliances, bathroom with shower, electric heating, allocated parking. This property is ready to go! EPC: G



CRADLEY HEATH, Elbow Street£425 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished ground floor apartment on a popular development, close to Old Hill High Street and the local Train Station. The property features: living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower. Benefits include electric storage heating, allocated parking space. EPC: D



HALESOWEN, Upper Ashley Street£425 pcm - Fees
An unfurnished maisonette which has been fully refurbished and is close to local shops and bus links. This lovely flat features electric storage heating, living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, shower room, parking space. EPC: D



NEW
HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY£395 pcm - Fees
Quiet, desirable location. An unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen with small fridge, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, communal drying area. EPC: F



NEW PRICE
DUDLEY, Auston House £355 pcm - Fees
Modern re-furnished ground floor flat available, communal entrance, open plan lounge with kitchen, double bedroom and shower room. Electric storage heaters, newly fitted carpet, property alarmed, allocated parking, security light. EPC: D



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REDUCED

OAK ROAD

- Traditional Bay Fronted Link Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefiting From A Gas Fired Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Side Garage Driveway Rear Garden

£199,950

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BARTLEY GREEN

REDUCED

PRIMROSE WOODS

- Modern Detached Property EPC Rating C
- Lounge Conservatory Fitted Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Garage Driveway Front and Rear Gardens
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

£190,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

NEW

CASTLE ROAD WEST

- Extended Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen Downstairs Shower Room
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Drive To Front Garden To The Rear
- Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£189,950

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QUINTON,

NEW

UPPER MEADOW ROAD

- Immaculate Bay Fronted Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Shower Room
- Benefiting From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Black Paved Driveway Large Rear Garden Garage To The Rear

£167,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



OLDBURY

REDUCED

RAMSAY ROAD

- An Imposing Semi Detached Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Dining Kitchen Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front Rear and Side Gardens Garage and Drive
- Internal Viewing Recommended No Upward Chain

£160,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

- Period End Terrace Property EPC Rating E
- Lounge Fitted Kitchen Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms Shower Room
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Internal Viewing Highly Recommended

£135,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



QUINTON

NEW

SIMMONS DRIVE

- Well Presented Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge Dining Room Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Internal Viewing Recommended To Appreciate Accommodation

£125,000

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OLDBURY

NEW

MANOR ROAD

- Modern Detached Bungalow EPC Rating C
- Lounge Kitchen Two Bedrooms Bathroom
- Double Glazing Gas Central Heating System
- Drive To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From No Upward Chain

£125,000

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OLDBURY

NEW

ELIZABETH CRESCENT

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Four Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gas Central Heating System Double Glazing
- Front and Rear Gardens

£125,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



BARTLEY GREEN

NEW

AMBLESIDE

- Semi Detached Property Awaiting EPC Rating
- Lounge Kitchen-Dining Room
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing
- Driveway garden To The Rear Garage En-bloc

£125,000

QUINTON 0121 4217766



BARTLEY GREEN

NEW

FIELD LANE

- Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating C
- Through Lounge Kitchen Utility Area
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Black Paved Frontage Garden To The Rear
- Property Benefits From A Gas Central Heating System and Double Glazing

£110,000

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QUINTON

REDUCED

OX LEASOW

- Spacious Mid Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Family bathroom W/c
- Garage and Drive To The Front
- Garden To The Rear Of The Property

£100,000

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QUINTON

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BARTLEY GREEN

REDUCED

GRAZEBROCK CROFT

- End Terrace Property EPC Rating D
- Enclosed Patch Lounge Kitchen-Diner
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front and Rear
- Cul-de-sac Location

£90,000

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QUINTON

NEW

DAVENTRY GROVE

- Spacious Second Floor Apartment Awaiting EPC
- Through Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom Separate W/c
- Communal Gardens
- Benefits From No Upward Chain

£89,950

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NEW

GLYN FARM ROAD

- Semi Detached Property
- Lounge Dining Room Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Family Bathroom W/c
- Parking To The Front Garden To The Rear
- Awaiting EPC Rating

£700 pcm

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QUINTON

LET
Similar Properties
Required

GLYN ROAD

- Traditional Semi Detached Property
- Lounge Dining Room Conservatory Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Driveway To The Front Garden To The Rear
- EPC Rating E

£650 pcm

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QUINTON

LET
Similar Properties
Required

DAVENTRY GROVE

- Ground Floor Flat
- Lounge Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms Bathroom
- Communal Gardens
- EPC=C

£500 PCM

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BARTLEY GREEN

NEW

JIGGINS LANE

- Mid Terrace Property
- Lounge Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front and Rear Gardens
- EPC Rating C

£540 pcm

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TO LET

CLAPGATE LANE

- Semi Detached Property Fully Refurbished
- Lounge Fitted Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Gardens To The Front And Rear
- EPC=D

£595 PCM

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QUINTON

TO LET

RIDGACRE ROAD

- Two Reception Rooms Kitchen Utility
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC=E

£590 PCM

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WOODGATE

TO LET

FALLOW WALK

- End Terrace Property
- Lounge Kitchen-Diner Cloakroom W/c
- Three Bedrooms Bathroom W/c
- Double Glazed Garden To The Rear
- EPC=C

£525 PCM

QUINTON 0121 4217766



ROWLEY REGIS

NEW

FARLEY COURT

- Modern Style Apartment
- Open Plan Living Room Fitted Kitchen
- Large Double Bedroom Bathroom W/c
- Allocated Parking Area
- Awaiting EPC Rating

£450pcm

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EPC B

Offers Over £275,000

Detached house offering lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, WC, bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

Newfield Lane, Halesowen



Awaiting EPC

£150,000

This semi detached property situated in the heart of Halesowen comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, three bedrooms and garage. Halesowen

Mace Street, Cradley Heath



Awaiting EPC

£120,000

This four bedroom terraced house comprises lounge, two reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen

Best Street, Cradley Heath



EPC E

£120,000

A four bedroom semi detached house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, drive/carport, front and rear gardens. Halesowen

Borough Crescent, Oldbury



EPC E

Offers Over £110,000

Convenient for motorway this property comprises lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden. Halesowen

Green Lane, Halesowen



EPC D

£75,000

This traditional mid terraced property comprises lounge, three bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

Tregarron Road, Halesowen



EPC D

Offers Over £170,000

A detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

Lime Street, Bilston



Awaiting EPC

£120,000

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge/diner, kitchen, family bathroom and rear garden.

Kirkham Gardens, Pensnett



Awaiting EPC

OIEO £110,000

End terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, rear garden and driveway.

Lambert Fold, Dudley



Awaiting EPC

OIEO £110,000

Mid terraced, well presented, two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, conservatory, loft space and allocated parking.

City Road, Tividale



Awaiting EPC

OIEO £100,000

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens and driveway.

Tividale Street, Tipton



Awaiting EPC

Offers Over £100,000

Terraced two bedroom property briefly comprising entrance hall, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, rear garden and allocated parking.

Swan Street, Brierley Hill



EPC E

£90,000

Semi detached two bedroom property comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom with separate WC, front and rear gardens, driveway and garage.

Ivanhoe Street, Dudley



EPC D

Offers Over £80,000

Mid terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

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Celebrating awards success

Motability customers in and around Dudley can be sure of receiving outstanding customer service from local dealer Dudley Motor Company as it celebrates winning a regional award for its work with the car scheme.

The accolade is part of a new programme of awards to reward Motability dealerships which provide outstanding customer service in their area.

The new Dealer Awards programme is designed to ensure all Motability customers receive exemplary customer service across the dealer network.

The awards are judged on how a dealer delivers the scheme to customers, which is assessed by customer feedback and reviews of their Motability performance.

All winners of the quarterly awards are automatically entered into the new national, annual awards which were held for the first time in January 2014.

Peter Wilson, general manager – dealer relations at Motability Operations, explains: 'As the 'shop-front' of the Motability scheme, and in many cases the first contact point for our customers, the focus of these awards is to thank our dealer partners for providing an ongoing positive customer service experience.'

'Our customers continually rate the service they receive at the dealership highly but there's always room for improvement and opportunities to learn from those who are doing it really well, like Dudley Motor Company. Many congratulations to them on their award win'.

Celebrating the Motability Dealer Award win, Tony Lister from Dud-

ley Motor Company, said: 'We are pleased and proud to win this Motability Dealer Award.'

'Motability is renowned for its high standards and Dudley Motor Company is thrilled to be recognised for our dedication to working in partnership with Motability.'

Anyone who receives the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance, the Enhanced Rate of the Mobility Component of Personal Independence Payment or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement can exchange the weekly payment to lease a new car through Motability. Insurance, servicing, RAC breakdown assistance and replacement tyres are included in the cost of the lease.

For more information about the Motability scheme contact Tony Lister on 01384 454100 or visit the website dudleymotorco.co.uk

Big savings on Fiat models

Fiat customers are being offered the opportunity to say 'No' to a deposit and 'No' to the first three monthly PCP repayments, so all they have to do is sign and drive off in a new Panda or Punto complete with its new '14' registration number.

Until March 24, Fiat is introducing a new customer saving and three-month PCP repayment holiday which results in an extra £500 saving to buyers of a new Pandas and Puntos.

With the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop, for example, this initiative is in addition to the £1,450 savings already on offer, resulting in a total saving to the customer of £1,950. The remaining 44 repayments would be just £107.26 (representative

3.8 per cent APR) with an optional final repayment £3,062 due in March 2018.

The Fiat Punto 1.2 Pop now offers total savings amounting to £2,455 with monthly repayments of just £129.33 (representative 4.2 per cent APR) plus an optional final repayment.

Alternatively, customers also have the option of foregoing the deposit contribution and repayment holiday and instead using the £500 Fiat contribution towards their monthly repayments, resulting in a deposit of just £98 and 47 repayments of £98 for the Fiat Panda 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment) or a £118 deposit and 47 monthly repayments of £118 for the Fiat Punto 1.2 Pop (plus optional final repayment).

The Fiat 'Say No' sales event is open to all retail customers subject to certain terms and conditions. The offer

isn't limited to the examples given – other versions of the Panda and Punto are available as part of the initiative.

Kate McLaren, senior brand manager Fiat UK, said: 'We believe being able to put a brand new fully-warranted Fiat Panda or Punto on the driveway, without having to stump up a deposit and with very affordable monthly repayments, offers customers huge peace of mind at a time when household budgets are stretched.'

The five-door Fiat Panda is the second-best selling car in its segment in Europe, behind the Fiat 500, and is a practical, efficient and stylish city car.

The Punto offers even more space and comfort, as well as the option of a sporty three-door hatchback, while retaining the efficiency and affordable stylishness which Fiat is synonymous with.



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VW BEETLE 1.8 T CABRIOLET 05 (54 Reg) White, Air Con, Alloys, Leather Seats, 67k, FSH.	£5995
VW GOLF 1.6 FSI MATCH 08 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, Alloys, 58k, FSH.	£6495
FIAT PUNTO EVO 1.4 GP 2010 60 Reg 5-dr, White, Air Con, Alloys, Only 14k, FSH.	£6495
SAAB 93 1.9 TDi Sport Anniversary, 09 Reg, White, Air Con, Alloys, 87k, FSH.	SOLD
FORD FIESTA 1.2 EDGE 11 Reg, 5-dr, Blue, Air Con, 37k, FSH.	£6995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI EXPRESSION COUPE 10 Reg, 3-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, 37k, FSH.	£6995
RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI DYNAMIC TOM 60 Reg 5-dr, Silver, Air Con, Alloys, Sat Nav, 42k, FSH.	£6995
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MPVS	
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Kia refreshes best budget 4x4 - popular Kia Sportage

It's easy to believe for a moment that the market for compact SUVs hasn't changed all that much in the last ten years, but it's now radically different and the biggest beneficiary of these changes have been Kia, and more specifically its Sportage. That car's been fettled and refreshed now and still looks the best budget 4x4 not a whole lot of money can buy.

As before, you get a choice of four powerplants. There are 1.7 or 2.0-litre common-rail diesels with 113 and 134bhp respectively – or 1.6 and 2.0-litre petrols packing 138 and 161bhp.

Performance is similar with the 2.0-litre units as both manage the 0-62mph trial in under 11s with the manual gearbox installed. The entry level cars have front wheel-drive, with upper spec models getting all-wheel traction.

The Sportage uses a part-time all-wheel-drive system which sends 100 per cent of power to the front wheels unless slippage is detected and it's automatically diverted to the rear. There's a Lock Mode for off-road driving which splits the available power 50/50 between the front and rear wheels, but it only operates below 25mph. All Sportage models have Hillstart Assist Control to help with uphill getaways and Downhill Brake Control to provide reassurance on steep descents.

The latest car features Kia's Flex Steer system on selected models. This allows the driver to choose between three different levels of power assistance according to preference and where the car is being driven. 'Comfort' mode provides increased help for parking or manoeuvring in tight areas, for example, while 'Sport' lessens the assistance for increased feel and stability at higher speeds. There is also a 'Normal' setting. In addition to this, the windscreens glass has been modified to reduce the amount of noise entering the cabin.

Otherwise, it's still as practical as ever. It just feels a little better built. The generous dimensions of the Sportage are carried over. There's a substantial boot measuring in at 564-litres when the rear seats are occupied – or 1,353-litres when they're folded down. Storage space inside the Sportage includes a six-litre centre console bin, large door pockets and a glovebox that's air-conditioned on some models.

Variants

Prices kick off at around £17,500, which keeps things real and Kia has done a spot of tinkering with the mix of the model line-up. Two additional variants at the top and bottom have been added to the team sheet to further broaden the appeal to customers – an all-wheel drive 2.0 CRDi at entry level and the 1.7 CRDi turbodiesel is now an option on the top spec two-wheel drive model. The 1.6-litre direct-injection petrol unit and 1.7-litre turbodiesel made their debuts in the Sportage and remain the mainstays of the range in the UK.

Equipment levels have also been subtly boosted across the range.

The best-performing Sportage from an economy and emissions perspective is the front-wheel drive 1.7 CRDi diesel which manages 54.3mpg and 135g/km. That's pretty good going. Should you choose petrol power, the 1.6 GDI powerplant returns a combined fuel figure of 44.1mpg and emissions of 149g/km. Should you want an all-wheel drive 2.0-litre diesel, you're looking at 49.6mpg and 149g/km which is very good.

Beware opting for the automatic version though, as this puts a bit of a dent into the efficiency metrics at 40.9mpg and 179g/km.

Like the rest of the Kia range, the Sportage is sold with the excellent seven-year or 100,000-mile warranty. It is fully transferable should the car be sold before the time or mileage limits have been reached. Fixed cost servicing also brings additional peace of mind via the Kia Care-3 and Care-3 Plus servicing package, offering retail customers inflation-proof servicing for the first three or five years. Again, all packages cover the car, not the owner, so are transferable should the vehicle be sold.



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Official Chevrolet fuel consumption figures for Cruze 1.7 VCDi: Urban 41.5, Extra-Urban 61.4, Combined 52.3, CO₂ 125 g/km; Spark 1.2 LTZ (mpg): Urban 42.8, Extra-Urban 68.9, Combined 56.5, CO₂ 118 g/km; Trax range: Urban: 34.4-52.3, Extra Urban: 51.3-70.6, Combined - 43.4-62.7. CO₂ Emissions 120-153g/km. Official EU-Regulated Test Data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style.

Pictures for illustration purposes only. Models shown are a Chevrolet Cruze LS Hatchback and Estate, featuring metallic paint at an extra cost of £470 and Chevrolet Spark 1.2 LT and a Chevrolet Trax 1.6 LS which feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. *Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings based on a (firm and engine) Model Year '14 Spark and Model Year '14 Trax. **Savings shown against manufacturers list price whilst stocks last. Savings available on other Chevrolet models. Valid for retail registrations only. Offers available until 31st March 2014 while stocks last. 0% APR Representative. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance supplied by either Santander Consumer (UK) plc, RBS 158 or GMAC PD BOX 6666. Car/HF, CP15 7Y1. Prices correct at time of print. We can introduce you to a limited number of finance providers, commission may be received. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock.



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(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING) ORDER 2014

The Borough Council of Sandwell in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 45 and 46 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers and after consulting with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, has made an Order which will introduce the following:-

1. No Waiting At Any Time' restriction in part(s) of Primrose Close, Cradley Heath.

2. Increase the length of 'No Waiting At Any Time' in part(s) of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.

3. Limited Waiting Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm 1 hour No Return within 2 hours' in parts of New Pool Road, Cradley Heath.

The Order was made on 18th March 2014, and will come into operation on 12th April 2014.

A copy of the draft Order, statement of reasons for making the Order and map showing the roads affected may be examined at the offices of the Area Director of Street Scene, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE between the hours of 8am - 5.30pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 8am - 5pm on Fridays. A plan is also available to view on the council's website.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or of any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that a requirement of the Act or that any regulation made thereunder has not been complied with in relation to the Order, may within 6 weeks from the 20th March 2014, apply to the High Court for that purpose.

Dated this 20th day of March 2014
S Handley, Area Director Street Scene
Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands B69 3DE

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HI MY NAME IS MARK I am 55, I am divorced, I live by myself, I have a car, I don't smoke, I like 80s music, I have a sense of humour, I like action films and dining out, I play ten pin bowling, I work in an office. I am looking for a non smoking lady who has a sense of humour. Photo appreciated. Box Number P19114, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

HELLO THIS IS MR JOHN HAZELWOOD I am trying to trace Mr G Davies who used to go to Exhall Grange School in Coventry. Believed to be living in the Walsall area since the 1960's. Box Number P19117, Express and Star, Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES.

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Morris is back in the saddle for opener

ASHLEY Morris returns to Heathens colours for their opening meeting of the season at Coventry on Friday.

The Wolverhampton youngster, who left Cradley in the winter after leading them to the Grand Slam last year, will replace the unavailable Paul Starke for the first leg of the Travel Plus Trophy.

Morris will also ride in the return with Starke facing up to missing the first three meetings of the Cradley season.

Boss Will Pottinger is looking for a good start from his revamped side who have been able to retain only Max Clegg, Nathan Greaves and Starke from last season's Grand Slam winners.

He said: "We'll be looking to hit the ground running again this season and get off to a good start like we did last season."

"We've got a couple of challenge matches against Coventry for the Travel Plus Trophy and then once the National League season kicks off we'll be trying to make sure we get off to a strong start."

"We can't wait to get going now and although we have the target on our backs we'll be trying to set out stall out early and show we will be one of the teams to beat again."

Six of the best for Bulteel in rout

Wolverhampton 1 OHHC 1sts 8

OLD Halesonians Hockey Club's losing streak came to an end after they thrashed bottom of the league Wolverhampton 8-1.

Hales striker Tom Bulteel scored a double hat-trick – the first three in a 15-minute period – as the visitors dominated the game.

They were on form throughout as they eased to victory.

Tom Durnford and Paul Woodall were also on target, though Simon Palmer, along with the Wolverhampton captain, was sin-binned.

There was just enough time in the final

Hockey

minutes when the hosts were awarded a penalty flick.

Goalkeeper Steve Charlton, who was virtually unchallenged throughout the entire game, was sent the wrong way, and Wolverhampton got their consolation goal.

Hales have a massive two games ahead of them before the season ends.

They will look to build on this victory, as the play host to Worcester in the penultimate game of the season, which starts at

1.30pm at Ormiston Forge Academy on Saturday.

OHHC - Satellite Club

Old Halesonians Hockey Club are setting up new junior training sessions with local schools, to encourage youngsters to take part in hockey.

Old Halesonians have had an established junior section for many years, where they run and take part in several tournaments and leagues, but are looking to expand and recruit new players.

Girls and boys are invited to come and try hockey at one of the training sessions which

are run by qualified coaches. Old Hales will provide a range of sticks for all sizes, so all that will be needed is appropriate clothing, shin pads and a drink.

The sessions are taking part weekly on Sundays, and are open to all ages and abilities. Windsor High School will host a session from 10am-noon, and Ormiston Forge Academy will host a session from 1 to 3pm. Sessions start this Sunday, March 23, and the first session is free. Sessions cost £2 per session thereafter.

Contact Jake Brooke on jake.ohhc@gmail.com for more details

Spot kick redeems as Sports equalise

WEDNESFIELD 1

Dudley Sports 1
WEDNESFIELD took a 19th minute lead through Josh Jones and held onto it until late into the second half but they had to settle for a West Midlands League Premier Division point.

Sports defender James Padden back-headed a Stevie Douglass pass into the path of Jones who cleverly lofted the ball over Sports keeper Dominic Richards the ball going in off the far post to give the home side the lead. Just before half time the visitors in a rare attack almost snatched an equaliser when Justin Nixon's shot from Craig Tibbetts struck Kieron Payne who was standing on the goal line.

The homeside shaped up better in the second half as skipper Danny Carter side-footed substitute Scott Embrey's free kick the wrong side of the post.

This was followed by Embrey playing a neat pass to Tom Essex to fire over from 20 yards in the 70th minute. In a rare attack Dudley equalised in the 70th minute when Wednesfield's defender Ashley Bradley was adjudged to have fouled Tibbetts in the penalty area. Nixon scored.

Magic Mike makes his mark for Tividale

Tividale FC 1 Quorn FC 0

TIVIDALE leapfrogged previous leaders Quorn to go top of the Midland Football Alliance table in a pulsating game at The Beeches.

With this being Tividale's fourth game in eight days and Quorn well aware of the home side's attacking capabilities, the game started cautiously.

Apart from a couple of long range efforts, the first 30 minutes passed by with incident.

Tividale felt they should have had a penalty on 30 minutes when Nathan Waite looked to have been pushed in the back by Quorn's Sam Young, before the defender conceded a corner.

From ensuing the Karl Edwards kick the ball was cleared back out to him and his first time shot flashed past the face of the goal. Twelve minutes later Tividale skipper Richard Huckfield rose the highest to meet a Chris Field free kick but his header went straight into the arms of Quorn keeper Laurie Pearson.

Deadlock

The second half was only two minutes old when Tividale broke the deadlock. A cross by Edwards evaded everyone and Waite did well to retrieve it at the edge of the box, skipping past his marker and firing in a shot that Pearson could only parry into the path of Michael "Magic" Wardle who found the net.

Tividale could have added a second on the hour when great pressing from Edwards caused an error in the Quorn defence. Edwards

Football

found Waite but his lob over Pearson went wide.

The last 15 minutes saw Quorn put the home defence under pressure but they were never really able to cause Tividale keeper Charles Price any problems.

In the end it was Tividale who had the best chance when in injury time substitute Kieran Miller was left on his own just inside his area and raced onto a long clearance. Instead of shooting after bearing down on goal he tried too find Edwards but his pass was too short and Quorn cleared.

Tividale: Charles Price, Andrew Parsons, Zac Foster, Chris Field, Mark Smith (Mitchell Plows), Richard Huckfield, David Bellis, Sam Williams, Nathan Waite (Kieran Miller), Michael Wardle, Karl Edwards. Subs: Tim Beech, Ryan Winwood, Luke Paskin

Quorn: Laurie Pearson, Tom Cooper, Sam Young, Jordan Wakeling, James Dodd, Niall Prenderville, Karl Whymark, Dan Henton, Dominic Brennan, Liam Turner, Liam Read. Subs: Blaize Kerr, Nathan Dale, Alex Honour, Michael Turner



Tividale match-winner Michael Wardle, left, gives chase in the clash against Quorn

Banish any fears, says Blues boss

Sheffield Weds 4 Blues 1
BIRMINGHAM boss Lee Clark has urged his side to banish any relegation fears with a couple of victories.

Clark admitted he was getting a touch nervous after Blues' 4-1 reverse at Sheffield Wednesday.

The defeat left Clark's men eight points clear of 22nd-placed Charlton but the Addicks have four games in hand. Wednesday manager Stuart Gray praised his side's victory as one of their best of the season.

Wednesday raced in to a 2-0 half-time. An own goal from Blues' Will Packwood extended the lead ahead of stunner from Lavery. Lee Novak was able to guide home a Chris Burke cross for a consolation effort.

Old Hales Seconds are beaten

OLD PATESIANS 2nds 42

Old Hales 2nds 18

A weakened Old Hales second team went down to a strong Old Patesians side 42-18 despite the Old Hales scumming continually destroying the Old Patesians pack.

Old Halesonians 3rds 53

Ledbury 2nds 14

Old Hales Thirde took on Ledbury 2nds in this rearranged league fixture. Old Hales put on a fine display of expansive rugby for a good crowd of spectators.

Scores came from Lee Davis, Elliot Hickman, Gaz Price, Ben Foster, Tom Lewis, Gary Jones, Harry Young and Luke Irwin.

Old Hales ran in six quality tries in the second half of the game.



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Saxons gear up to push their Luc

Stourbridge Saxons go into this Saturday's encounter at Luctonians knowing they must leave their Herefordshire neighbours with nothing less than a bonus point win to maintain their National 2 North promotion challenge.

Lucs will be looking to avenge a nine-try rout suffered at Stourton Park back in November.

The following Saturday Mar 29 the Saxons contest a season-defining home fixture against fellow contenders Darlington Mowden Park, currently breathing down their necks just a point behind in third place.

They will be seeking revenge for their only away defeat of the season, a 38-8 reversal inflicted at Mowden Park's Northern Echo Arena, but will be without the services of influential flanker James Rodley. But Director of Rugby Neil Mitchell can now keep an eye on the weather forecast and select from an otherwise full squad. 'Luctonians will always present a significant physical challenge at home, a dry pitch would favour the superior firepower of the Saxons' threequarters. Last season the pack selection was simple - the biggest eight blokes in the squad - and there's no reason why it should be different this time.

Lead is taken from Khalsa

Cradley Town 1 Sporting Khalsa 1
AS games go, this was anything but a classic, on a bobbly pitch neither side could take significant control of the first half with chances restricted.

The best chance of the half fell to Mark Habbershaw who went clear on goal but his shot was saved by Cradley keeper Richard Kennedy.

In the second half Khalsa started to get on top of the game with the opening goal through John Cordy in the 75th minute but 10 minutes later Khalsa switched off from a corner and Carl Martin got an equalizer.

Khalsa responded with three great chances in the last five minutes but the Cradley keeper made some important saves and denied Khalsa all three points. Khalsa's U-15s are in the County Cup.

Sutton edge ahead in battle for play-offs

Old Hales 13 Sutton 15

ANOTHER fine Saturday afternoon at Wassell Grove and a top of the table clash with two teams playing for a play-off place.

From the kick-off both teams went at it hammer and tongs at each other, both forwards and backs. Hales were not in the mood to give any ground, shown by the presence of particularly Mark Evans, Pete Fitzgerald, Rich Taylor and Tom Jordan.

The Hales backs looked dominant for a large part of the first half and indeed the whole team deserved more in the first 40 minutes. On 25 minutes, Hales hooker,

Rugby

Pete Fitzgerald was sin-binned for a high tackle. Five minutes later a penalty to Sutton put them in front. Hales then showed excellent phases of play, scrum half, Greg Smith fed skipper Rich Taylor on the burst. He passed to the supporting Andy Robinson to score.

The kick was missed but Hales led 5-3. The home side were then penalised again with prop Cliff Tomkinson receiving a yellow card.

Down to 14 men, Hales were on the de-

fensive but as solid as the tackling was Sutton worked well for a try on 40 minutes, converted to lead 10-8.

On 55 minutes, Sutton again came back with some fine open play for a try to lead 15-8. The game was becoming really intense and Hales fought back, camped in the Sutton half. Then a break from the backs fed to winger Luke Smith. He kicked over the defending players, chased but was tripped in the process.

The referee blew his whistle for a penalty but the ball continued to roll on with centre Carl Robinson collecting and scoring a cer-

tain try. But it was disallowed and a penalty awarded. The penalty was taken, but the resulting line out did not reap the benefits deserved for the home side. Hales continued to apply pressure and on 70 minutes great forward play resulted in prop Tom Dempsey driving over for a try wide out.

The conversion was missed which gave Sutton a lead with three minutes to go. This was not enough time and Hales failed to come back despite late pressure, Sutton were victorious and now sit second in the league, with Old Hales fourth. On Saturday Hales travel to Broad Street, kick off 3pm

Mel glad Anelka row over

BOSS Pepe Mel believes the end of the Nicolas Anelka saga should benefit Albion's bid for Premier League survival.

The Hawthorns head coach believes the departure of Anelka, who left the club on Friday with the Baggies claiming he was sacked, should remove a potential distraction from his team.

Mel's comments came after news emerged the FA will appeal to FIFA to ensure Anelka does not escape punishment for his 'quenelle' goal celebration by moving countries.

He tweeted on Friday that he had quit Albion, only for the club to claim just hours later that they had sacked the Frenchman for 'gross misconduct' over the gesture at West Ham in December and Friday's tweets.

Mel said: "My relationship with Nicolas Anelka was good and he helped me but I hope now the situation is resolved in the best way possible for all parties."

"The club needs all of its forces and energy to move forward."

"We are professionals and not keeping West Bromwich Albion up would be a failure for everyone."

Contract talks are put on hold

RICHARD STEARMAN'S future will remain in limbo until Wolves' promotion fate is decided after it emerged all contract talks with senior players have been put on hold.

The former Leicester defender has been in excellent form in recent weeks, helping Wolves to six consecutive clean sheets.

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YELTZ CLING ON TO OPEN UP GAP

Halesowen Town 3 Newcastle Town 2

HALESOWEN opened up a five point gap at the top of the Evo-Stik League Division One South, but had to endure an edgy finish.

Yeltz had earlier established a comfortable-looking three goal lead through Ben Haseley, Lyseden Christie and skipper Joe Hill.

In a flat opening, Christie's ninth minute header was turned over by Newcastle goalkeeper Adam Alcock and Haseley fired just high on the turn three minutes later.

For the visitors, Tim Sanders curled over the bar from the edge of the penalty area after 19 minutes.

Haseley then fired just wide from Christie's lay-off and returned the favour by squaring to Christie in the 30th minute, although he could only poke weakly at Alcock as the ball bobbled away from him.

Clearance

Haseley beat Alcock from close range to put Halesowen 1-0 ahead in the 40th minute from Nigel Penney's throw-in after Jonathon Sheldon had earlier miscued his clearance.

Asa Charlton then scooped over the bar with a stereotypical defender's finish after surging into the Newcastle box in the 42nd minute.

Christie stepped up to slam a 45th minute penalty into the bottom corner and double the home lead after being brought down by Leon Ashman.

At the start of the second period Thomas Urwin's dip-

Football

ping shot landed just over the home crossbar.

Home victory looked assured when Hull towered high to power home a far post header from Neil MacKenzie's precise 50th minute cross and put Halesowen three goals to the good.

But Newcastle's Sanders had other ideas and made it an unlikely nervy ending for Halesowen by pulling back two goals. Sanders raced forward to beat a static home defence and lobbed the ball over goalkeeper Matt Sargeant before carrying on to round Sargeant and bundle the ball home on the goal-line after 56 minutes.

Minutes later, MacKenzie curled a 20 yard free-kick past the visiting post and Haseley cut inside full-back James Askey to be free on goal but Alcock made a fine blocking save.

Sanders reduced the arrears further at 3-2 in the 70th minute, rifling into the bottom corner following a neat interchange of passes.

Substitute Joshua Gordon went close to snatching a point when he struck inches wide in the 73rd minute and Castle went even closer.

Karlsson gets off to a flyer at Monmore



Sport .. pic John Hipkiss Last Race win for Peter Karlsson (2nd left) against Adan Skornicki, Peter Kildemand and Freddie Lindgren Banks's Olympique Classic 2014. (1898485)

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